

















## Council drops fares levy ahead of court hearing

By David Walker

The power of councils to levy rates and subsidise local buses and trains remained in its extraordinary state of confusion yesterday after a High Court judgment in favour of objectors to the supplementary rate levied last autumn by the West Midlands County Council to facilitate 25 per cent cuts in fares.

In the Divisional Court, Mr Justice Woolf gave Solihull Borough Council and Guest, Keen and Nettlefords Ltd orders quashing the county rate on the ground that the county council had not taken "all relevant matters" into account when deciding on its precept.

On the strong advice of lawyers the council decided

on Monday to raise fares overall in the West Midlands passenger transport region by 67 per cent, rescind its supplementary rate precept of 14p, and reduce its planned spending by about £33m. It substituted a new supplementary rate of 5.75p to raise about £24m to be spent on emergency road repairs, from an economic development programme and on a small increase to the passenger transport budget.

In court, the relevance of the GLC fares case was unclear. Mr Justice Woolf said the county council for acting "reasonably once the decision in the Bromley case was known". He also pointed out the two cases were not identical.

The judge said the manifesto on which Labour took control of the West Midlands County Council last May did not relieve the council of its duty to give "full consideration" to policy changes. "If in fact no consideration is given to a decision, it is liable to be quashed by this court as a decision reached contrary to law."

On that point the High Court would have found it difficult to refuse the application by Solihull and Guest, Keen, he said. The fares cut had been decided without proper consideration.

Mr William Glover, QC, for the West Midlands, told the court that the present parliamentary debate over the Local Government Finance Bill could have some serious

consequences if any further challenge to the county's rates precept was mounted.

It might be that the 5.75 precept would be challenged. If the challenge succeeded after the beginning of the financial year 1982-83 then the provisions of the Bill before Parliament could make the life of West Midlands council impossible. The Bill takes away councils' right to levy supplementary rates. West Midlands would have no way of finding the money to repay the precept, Mr Glover said.

Mr Woolf said that any challenge to the new supplementary rate should be brought before the court promptly.

Such a challenge now seems unlikely. Politicians in the Solihull and Dudley boroughs which had taken the lead in opposing the county, yesterday expressed themselves satisfied with the court's judgement. They accepted that a 5.75 rate was legitimate.

Mr D. Wyn Rees, leader of Solihull, promised that work would start immediately on repaying the supplementary rate his borough had levied to cover the precept. The average domestic ratepayers stood to gain about £20, either as a cash refund or credit against future rate liability.

West Midlands fares will rise on March 7. Under measures proposed by the county, specific fares for children would also rise and concessionary rates on "travel cards" would cease.



A long photographic session was just too much for Emma Mason, aged four, when her portrait as Miss Pears, 1981, was unveiled in Newcastle yesterday. Emma, of Blyth, Northumberland, burst into tears; she soon recovered, and was as pretty as her picture again.

## New insulin device may replace injections

By Pearce Wright  
Science Editor

Clinical trials of a device which gives diabetic a steady supply of insulin are to start soon. Preliminary tests suggest that it could eliminate some serious complications in treating diabetes.

The tests are to be done by Professor Harry Keen and Dr John Pickup, at Guy's Hospital, London, who have pioneered many advances in treating the illness. Their miniature insulin infuser, is being developed at the National Institute for Medical Research at Mill Hill, North London.

The final version of the device, which is about the size of a cigarette packet and weighs 5oz, was demonstrated at the laboratories yesterday, with the experimental models tested during research.

Dr Ian Sutherland, of the Institute's design team, says it is intended for patients usually taking one or two injections a day.

A thin tube runs from the device to a needle in the skin. Loading is simple, but the doctor sets the rate at which the insulin flows, with a small rotary switch. The patient has a push-button to call for the special dose needed before a meal.

All operations are controlled by micro-electronics. The infuser lasts at least seven days between refills.

## Oil project surprised conservationists

From Craig Seton, Lyndhurst

The public inquiry into Shell UK's proposal to look for oil in the New Forest was told yesterday that since a similar application by a company in Dorset 16 sites had been developed for oil exploration and four were in full production, serviced by pipelines, a gathering station and a rail terminal.

Miss Margaret Dennis, of the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC), told the inquiry at Lyndhurst, Hampshire, that the council would have objected to the plans in the Purbeck area of Dorset had it known how the development would mushroom.

The inquiry, in its third week, is into Shell UK's planning application to drill an exploratory well at Denny Inclusion near Lyndhurst. The application has been approved by Hampshire County Council and the New Forest District Council subject to safeguards but is being fiercely opposed by the conservancy council. The Countryside Commission, the Council for the Protection of Rural England and at least 17 local amenity and conservation groups.

They reject Shell argument that the company would have to seek further planning permission for additional development, and insist that the application should be considered in the context of what would happen if oil was found.

Miss Dennis said the Dorset oilfield at Wytch Farm, near Wareham and the Isle of Purbeck, had resulted in no

great direct losses to the wildlife habitat but the overall effects on the environment, including the ever-increasing demand for ancillary requirements, had been much greater than expected.

"In Dorset, what was once one of the quietest and least visited parts of the country now has a semi-industrial atmosphere about it", she said.

If oil was found at Denny Inclusion, there would be well sites at half-mile intervals, water reservoirs, pipelines, access routes, a gathering station, and possibly a well-head terminal.

Mr Colin Tubbs, the conservancy council's assistant regional officer in Hampshire, said the New Forest was of international importance to nature conservation and biological science. Its heathlands, valley bogs and ancient and mainly unenclosed woodland were of "quite exceptional scientific importance". They were rich in lichens, which were susceptible to atmospheric pollution, and there were 46 species of rare or endangered plants.

Denny Inclusion was of little intrinsic value to nature conservation if considered in isolation. But it was of national importance not to expose the forest to risk of degradation, he said.

It was naive to expect an oil company to abandon a site where it had found oil, so it was difficult to view exploration without considering the possibility of production.

## Pledge on milk deliveries

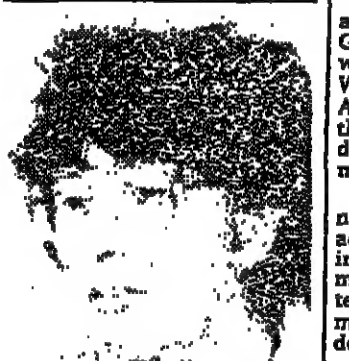
By David Hewson

The Government is pledged to do all it can to see that traditional doorstep milk delivery is not lost through price competition and imports.

A report prepared by the Consumers' Committee for England and Wales and dealing with milk deliveries has been welcomed by Peter Walker, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

He said after its publication: "Not only is this vitally important to producers and the dairy trade as a way of maintaining consumption of milk, it also provides a valuable service to all members of the community, particularly the elderly and the housebound."

Report on the Effect of the Milk Marketing Scheme on Consumers (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, £2.10).



Mrs Doreen Hill, of Cleveland the mother of Peter Sutcliffe's last victim, who yesterday called for the dismissal of Mr Ronald Gregory, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, and other senior officers who handled the much criticized investigation into the Yorkshire Ripper murders.

## Compensation plea on wrongful jailing

By Frances Gibb

A draft Bill which would give a statutory right to compensation for wrongful imprisonment was presented by a delegation of MPs to Mr Patrick Mayhew, QC, Minister of State at the Home Office, yesterday.

The delegation was led by Mr Christopher Price, Labour MP for Lewisham, West, who presented for the claim for compensation for the three youths wrongfully convicted of the murder of Mr Maxwell Confait, a homosexual prostitute of Catford, south-east London, in April, 1972.

Mr Price said yesterday: "Some people spend many months in prison awaiting their trial and are then found not guilty. It is only fair to innocent people who have lost their liberty for many months that they should receive compensation from the State."

The Bill, which Mr Price, with Mr Alf Dubs, Labour MP for Battersea, South, and Mr Ian Mikardo, Labour MP for Tower Hamlets, Bethnal Green and Bow, is urging the Home Secretary to adopt was drawn up by the National Council for Civil Liberties.

It calls for the right to compensation to be included in statute. There is a procedure for applying for ex-gratia payments from the Home Secretary but few people know of it and it is at the Home Secretary's discretion. The Bill also urges that

## Courtyard scheme wins vote

By Hugh Clayton  
Environment Correspondent

Plans by Warneford Investments for redevelopment of buildings in Wardrobe Place, a secluded courtyard near St Paul's Cathedral, were approved by a large majority in the City of London planning committee yesterday.

The only remaining hurdle for the scheme is a vote in the corporation's Court of Common Council next month.

The scheme has twice been modified to meet the needs of architectural preservation. The courtyard style of the area and the facades of some old buildings are now planned to be retained. New buildings will be designed to blend with those preserved and, Warneford Investments says, to "bring the accommodation up to acceptable modern standards".

There is still opposition among some local people. Mr Geoffrey Fox, an accountant who is chairman of the Wardrobe Place Tenants' Association, said: "The sad thing is that it would be destroying a social community."

Many of the small businesses, housed in what he admitted were "shabby buildings", would be forced to move. Mr Fox accepted that tenants had a strong financial motive for opposing the development.

Mr David Harter, opening the case for the Association of Waterloo groups at a public inquiry into the proposed redevelopment of the Coin Street site, said his clients accepted the need for some offices in the scheme.

The group has proposed a mainly residential development which they say would have far less impact on the landscape and community life than the scheme planned by Greycoat Commercial Estates.

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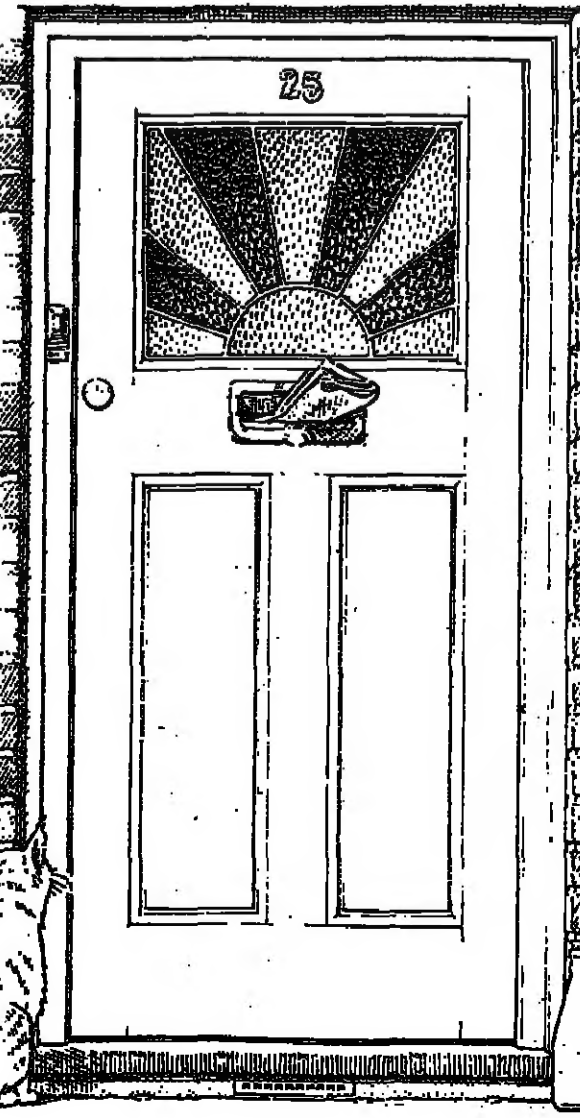
\*The Annual Percentage Rate has been calculated to include estimated costs in taking the security, the valuation fees and an arrangement fee. Insurance premiums have been omitted.

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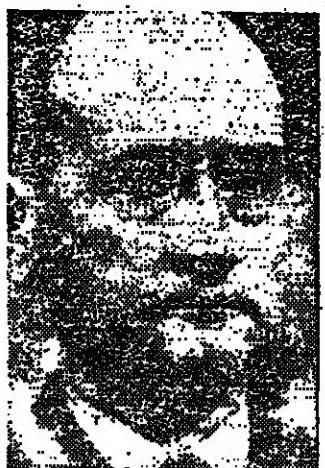




## Poland: What Jaruzelski left unsaid

## US reaps harvest of distrust

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 26



General Jaruzelski: Effective attack on sanctions

Neither General Wojciech Jaruzelski's dwindling host of friends nor the gathering regiment of foes would accuse him of being a brilliant orator, traditionally a suspect quality in Polish leaders.

Even so, his clenched fist, the slight, almost imperceptible, overlarge uniform, all conspire to produce a mesmerizing effect. The audience listens much like soldiers waiting to hear whether they have been put on punishment parade.

It was not surprising then, given the hypnotic and disciplinarian blend, that nobody noticed the omissions from his speech yesterday to the SESM. The Polish United Workers Party — technically the ruling party in the country — scarcely rated a mention.

The church was sandwiched between a reference to the need for political vigilance in journalism and the need to mobilize patriotic forces. The trade union was given much time but little substance.

The speech then barely touched on the three main "sources" for the use of the pre-December 13 phrase. Instead there was a good deal of common sense about working harder, erasing teeth, getting down to the job.

Bits of the speech (the sweeping Polish destiny phrases) seemed to have been, and probably were, scripted by Mr Mieczyslaw Rakowski, the deputy Prime Minister and former journalist. Other bits showed the tell-tale traces of one of the military council aides whose sentiments are close to the nationalist Grunwald faction. Other sections could have been, but certainly were not, written by Mr Andrzej Giermek, the hard-line, hard-hat member of the Politburo.

Given the mixed pedigree of the speech, its enormous range, its tendency, like an aging mountain goat, to scurry from one political peak to another, it seems

perverse to isolate any topic. But it came as a surprise to hear what ordinary Poles thought of the speech: they were not impressed by the possibility of an easing of martial law nor by the possible phasing out of internment.

Poles have lived through a number of changes of government and for all the military council's protestations, the Polish Government is unquestionably a different one from that which held sway seven weeks ago — and each has been accompanied by open-ended promises that collide with reality.

They were impressed by General Jaruzelski's concise attack on Western sanctions. He employed a simple enough attack that has been used often enough over the past few weeks in the press but it seemed to carry particular weight, perhaps because of the quiet expression of the general, perhaps because many Poles have given up reading newspapers.

Western sanctions, said General Jaruzelski, were not aimed at the Government but at the people. It was food blackmail. And, implicit in subsequent comments, sanctions would have precisely the reverse effect of that

intended. The greater the food shortages, the more likely unrest, the longer martial law would stay in place.

Thus (a conclusion drawn by ordinary Poles rather than the general) the Poles are being doubly punished: less food and the troops will stay. It is a curious fact that the Poles will distill almost every word said by officials but, almost at random, they will seize on an officially fed fact and believe it with intensity.

The American Government is particularly unpopular with Poles now. They believe the planned Hollywood spectacle on Poland trivialises their position and they cannot reconcile their traditionally strong links with the United States with "food blackmail", though the effect of sanctions on the Polish food supply is really only peripheral.

However irrational, the concern about sanctions touches a chord. Talking to senior church advisers recently, the same view came through, albeit with more intellectual force.

The Church strategy was explained in the following way: The Primate, Archbishop Glemp, was tempering his criticism of the Polish Government with the support of His bishops by contrast — as witnessed in last Sunday's pastoral letter — were pulling no punches.

The Primate is worried that pushing General Jaruzelski too hard will either force him into a hardline corner or topple him and unbalance some tough characters in the party. Solution: relatively mild, mannered criticism. The bishops know that just mild criticism of the Government will lose the support of the population. Not even the government really wants that.

It is important that the Church retain enough leverage over the Polish nation to prevent them going out on their own and destroying militia lorries and far worse.

Western sanction, coupled with a demand for the end of the martial law, though a stunningly straightforward approach, disturbs the balance of the Church strategy.

It needs Western (and, of course, especially Vatican) support in its attempt to drive hard for an end to internment. But as long as ordinary Poles believe that President Reagan is withholding food from Poles, the Church cannot be seen to be siding with a sanctions policy.

Moreover, a rapid end to martial law, though theoretically desired by the Church, presents more problems than it solves. Who is to replace the military leadership? The answer would probably be that the still relatively moderate General Jaruzelski would be replaced by hardliners of one sort or another, people with no more sympathy for the Church. The Church only has a mediating role because the present Government recognizes its limitations; the same might not be said of a successor government.

It is Western sanctions that are confusing the issue for the Church and other Poles. Not many people were pleased to see the Soviet Union exploit Poland's food and political crisis so quickly: with no more than a hundred food lorries arrived in Warsaw, days after the proclamation of martial law.

General Jaruzelski made repeated references in his speech to "our reliable, infallible friends", the Russians. Infallible, perhaps, but there is no escaping the popular recognition that the West has lost moral authority and considerable bargaining power by withholding food, in the United States case a \$700m (£370m) more.

It has shown itself, so a church adviser told me on Monday, shortly before General Jaruzelski made the same point publicly, that it is not really interested in the welfare of ordinary Poles, the poorest find that difficult to swallow.

## Thorn tells Ten to talk hard cash

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 26

The European Commission is pressing ahead to fix the agricultural prices for the 1982-83 season despite the failure of Foreign Ministers yesterday to agree on guidelines for a reform of the Community's agricultural policy and finances.

The price proposals are expected to be ready by tomorrow evening, even though there is every chance that Britain will block their adoption until it is satisfied by the budget contribution terms it is offered.

In an angry statement today, Mr Gaston Thorn, the President of the European Commission, said, "The ten should realize that tactical considerations had to give way before the need for a strategy that would help to resolve the great problems confronting the Community."

He agreed to make a further tour of the European capitals with Mr Leo Tindemans, the president of the Council and to prepare the report for the next European summit in March.

"I have done this because I do not want to resign myself to a setback which would shake the Community edifice to the foundations," he stated. He did not expect his mission to succeed, however, and the best that could be hoped for was that the summit might find itself ready to reach agreement.

If not, it would be necessary to speak of the Community's incapacity to take decisions. This was even more serious because it came at a time when the economic and political situation demanded European solidarity more than ever.

Disappointment over the failure of yesterday's talks was not confined to Mr Thorn. Most delegations had arrived at the meeting believing that agreement was possible. The inability to find common ground on how to give Britain the demanded extra financial help had not been foreseen.

For agreement to be possible during the European summit the member countries would have to stop talking vaguely about guidelines and come down to defining terms in hard cash.

When the European summit is held, the heads of government will thus have a clear idea of what is involved financially. They will also have an idea of the importance among their lobbies at the danger of agricultural prices being held up while a solution is found to the British budget problem.

The EEC foreign ministers decided today to take the European Parliament to the European Court over the way it implemented the 1982 Community budget.

They agreed, however, that for the moment member states would pay their budget contributions according to the levels decided by the Parliament.

What will be at issue, is whether Parliament has the right to reclassify items in the budget from the obligatory payment sector, over which it has no control, to the non-obligatory payment sector, over which it does have control.

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Leading article, page 11



## SPD tries to avoid missile split

From Patricia Clough

Bonn, Jan 26 West German Social Democrat leaders today published a resolution on medium-range missiles which is designed to avert a serious clash between its anti-missile faction and Herr Helmut Schmidt, the Chancellor, at the party congress in April.

The document proposed that a final decision be put off until a special congress in the autumn of 1983. By then, it is hoped, the Geneva missile negotiations between the United States and the Soviet Union should have produced results and there should be a clearer idea of how many new Nato cruise and Pershing missiles need to be stationed.

The resolution warns the Government and Nato that deployment should not be regarded as automatic.

It calls for a moratorium on short-range weapons during the Geneva negotiations, urges that other medium-range weapons — American, British and French — be drawn progressively into negotiations.

Herr Willy Brandt, the party chairman, predicted an overwhelming majority for the resolution, basing his optimism on talks with leaders of regional and local party branches at the week-

## Letter from India

## Saving the tiger in Jungle Jim's park

My tiger burned brightly. Revealed in the headlights, glare he bounded across the track in lazy majesty and slid, silky and sinewy, into the blackness of the jungle. To spy a tiger in the wild is a lucky and thrilling experience. To hear his threatening growl from the tall dry grass is to have all the senses suddenly and shiveringly sharpened.

Like all the best quests the search for a tiger offers the prospect of a glimpse of a creature legendary, beautiful and rare; and only a small chance of success.

One of the happy aspects of seeking a tiger today is that the beast is no longer on the edge of extinction. Until recently it was a close thing. Tiger-hunting used to be a style of aristocratic hooliganism in India, and royals, viceroys, rajahs, lords and various burra sahibs revelled in blasting away from their bowdashes.

Although they killed many tigers they were not the most destructive offenders. Much damage was caused by the clearing of forests for agricultural and industrial use and the development of hunting holidays with a tiger kill almost guaranteed.

About 70 years ago the tiger population of India was calculated at 30,000. In 1960, when the Duke of Edinburgh became the last member of the British Royal Family to fall a tiger, the count was under 3,000. Ten years ago there were fewer than 2,000.

Fortunately the Indian Government banned hunting and established Project Tiger to save the animal. Today 11 reserves provide a home for nearly 800 tigers. Most, however, still live in forests outside the reserves and the total tiger population has increased to more than 3,000.

One reserves is Corbett Park, on the edge of the Himalayas, 140 miles north-east of Delhi. It takes its name from Jim Corbett, a genuine *Boy's Own Paper* jungle Jim who hunted man-eaters in these parts from 1907 to 1939, and whose stirring tales are the

essence of adventure and a vanished era. As it happened, I was driving at dusk to dine with Brijendra Singh, a tiger expert who recently trapped and drugged a man-eater (and installed it in Lucknow Zoo), when I saw my first tiger. He was leaping across the road, presumably going out to dinner too.

Next morning, mounted on elephants, we found the bloodstained place where a tiger had killed in the night. Pug snout and the drag mark of a dead deer led us across a river and we found the hooves and skull in a patch of tall whispering grass beneath some trees.

We stopped and peered. From the grass a tigress began a low and menacing growl. Had she been alone she might have broken cover. But, close by her, was a cub, still and silent, its face was just visible. Rather than irritate the tigress, we moved off.

Later that day, while brewing tea beside a lake, we heard five shots. Shooting is forbidden in the park and our tiger expert took three of us to investigate.

Half a mile away we encountered a number of men. They were big game divisional commissioner, two magistrates, a police superintendent and, in uniform, a police inspector wearing a revolver and bandolier. One of the youths with them had a shotgun.

A hundred yards away we found the fresh blood of a shot deer and a blood trail leading into the jungle. The shooting party was persuaded to explain it all to park officials. They sat on a stone as darkness fell and, by the light of a camp fire, wrote out statements saying one of the youths had fired the gun accidently.

Quite close by a tiger started roaring and in the distance elephants bellowed. The pens of the upholders of the law squeaked. Somewhere out in the jungle a wounded deer was bleeding.

Trevor Fishlock

## Mitterrand being held up by Socialists on banks

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Jan 26

Discussion of the second Nationalization Bill began this afternoon in the National Assembly before sparsely occupied benches. The marathon debate on the first Bill last year, was marked by epic clashes between the Socialist majority and the Opposition.

But even now the atmosphere remains tense. Sparks began to fly from the very opening of the debate. When M Michel Charzat, the *Rapporteur* of the special committee on nationalizations, insisted that "only an infinitesimal minority, a caste increasingly foreign to the national interest, can try to delay the inevitable once again".

This second lap of the nationalization obstacle course, as some commentators call it, was made necessary by the objections of the Constitutional Council to some of the provisions of the first Bill. They included compensation for the share-

holders; and the need for the Government to submit a new Bill, which took these objections into account. But this time it is not the Opposition but the massive Socialist majority in Parliament, which is giving the Government trouble. Last week, it voted its ratification of the post-ponement of the first Bill in sharp criticism of the Constitutional Council and the constitution, and showed that it did not intend to toe the line weekly but wanted to assert its own more radical point of view. It disagreed with the procedure adopted by the Cabinet, of submitting an entirely new Bill. It would have preferred nationalization to be put through by decree. It opposed the postponement of the takeover of 18 private banks not quoted on the Stock Exchange until the end of next year. To allow for a committee of experts to assess their value for compensation.

## Stepson confronts von Bulow

From Our Correspondent, Newport, Rhode Island, Jan 26

Mr Claus von Bulow faced his accuser today when his stepson, Prince Alex von Auerberg, told the Newport court of his suspicions concerning his mother's illness. Mrs Maria "Sunny" von Bulow, a Pittsburg utilities heiress, has been in an insulin coma since December, 1980.

Mr von Bulow, a former London barrister in the same chambers as Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, is charged with trying to kill his wife with insulin injections in 1979 and 1980. He was charged after his stepson had hired a lawyer and a private investigation was started because he said he was not convinced his mother's coma was brought on by natural causes.

Prince Alex, aged 22 told a pre-trial hearing today how he had gone to the von Bulow Newport mansion, Clarendon Court, with a private detective and a locksmith and found a black washbag containing needles in his stepfather's locked cupboard. He recalled seeing capsules in little plastic packages and hypodermic needles in the bags.

Mr von Bulow sat staring at Prince Alex, his emotionless face cupped in his hands. The defence is attempting to suppress the evidence of the "black bag" and the needles, one with a trace of insulin, because it claims it was obtained illegally, without a search warrant. It failed yesterday in a motion to have the indictment dismissed because it was effectively a private prosecution engineered by the family.

Mr Richard Kuh, Prince Alex's lawyer yesterday took the stand and admitted he had spent several hundred hours over nearly 13 months investigating the case. He said he initiated the investigation after Prince Alex and his sister, Princess Ala, told him of their suspicions of the



The listener: Mr Claus von Bulow deep in concentration during the court hearing yesterday.

two comas their mother had suffered.

He also revealed after the Rhode Island hearing had started investigating the case. Prince Alex had told him he had found a broken crystal walking stick handle in the drawer in the family's Manhattan apartment. Mr Kuh said he followed up the evidence because Mrs von Bulow had been admitted to hospital with a head wound and what was diagnosed as an overdose of aspirin. She recovered and never accused her husband. "The speculation was without foundation", Mr Kuh said.

The ruling over the argument of the admissibility of the black bag is expected

tomorrow. Another defence action to exclude statement Mr von Bulow gave to police before he was indicted is still to be argued before the trial begins.

The case, already in its third week without a word of evidence put to the jury, has rocked the aristocratic summer colony of Newport (Reuter reports). The trial is due to last two months.

Mr Herald Fahringer, the defence lawyer, yesterday accused Mr Kuh of being "up to his ears" in what should have been a police inquiry and of having a financial incentive to find evidence against Mr von Bulow, a former aide of J. Paul Getty.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Smoother seas ahead for liner

Los Angeles — It looks like smooth sailing at long last for the Queen Mary, the old liner which has been tossed in rough financial waters for 14 years since it ended its life on the high seas (Ivor Davis writes).

The ship, now a tourist attraction in Long Beach, California, is to become the centrepiece for a \$1,000m (£520m) leisure complex.

The Wrather Corporation, which has taken over the running of the ship, said it was seeking financial partners to build a marina, a cruise ship terminal, three hotels with a total of 3,000 rooms, office buildings, shops and restaurants. All will be built around the Queen Mary and the Spruce Goose, the famous flying boat that was owned and flown by Howard Hughes.

The Queen Mary sailed into Long Beach in December 1967. Despite high hopes by the City of Long Beach, the ship's owners, it never made money as a tourist attraction although millions visited it. Last year Mr Jack Wrather, a developer and film producer, signed a 66-year lease to operate the liner which is currently a hotel and convention centre.

Iran insurgents take town

Scores of guerrillas swept out of a forest stronghold near the Caspian Sea and captured part of the Iranian resort town of Amol in a dawn raid in which at least 20 people were killed (according to Iranian reports monitored in London).

A local policeman contacted by telephone said attackers belonged to a little known group called "Sarbedastan", a Farsi word for "The Hand", taken from a nationalist group which opposed the early Arab rulers of Iran.

Tehran radio, said 16 "counter-revolutionaries" were killed in the attack.

Atlanta trial scope widens

The prosecution in the Atlanta murder trial has been allowed by the judge to bring in evidence linking Wayne Williams (above) to 10 more killings in the city (Michael Hamlyn writes). The prosecution is planning to show that there was a system, or pattern, to the killings that will enable it to tie Mr Williams even closer to the two murders he is charged with.

The victims are all young black males, who were strangled. The deaths are linked to the accused by the same kind of evidence — dog hairs and carpet fibres — that have already been discussed in court.

Botha's reply delivered

Johannesburg. — South Africa has presented its reply to the Western proposals for the constitution of an independent Namibia (Michael Hornby writes). The terms of the reply had been discussed at a Cabinet meeting chaired by Mr P. W. Botha, the Prime Minister. Its contents were not revealed.

The five Western nations which are coordinating the negotiations on Namibia have already received the response of Swapo, the guerrilla movement fighting for the independence of Namibia, and the front-line black states which support it.

Nimeiry picks party chief

Khartoum. — President Nimeiry of Sudan has appointed Colonel Awad Malik, as secretary of the Sudanese Socialist Union, the country's only political party.

He replaces General Abdumajid Hamid Khalil, who was dismissed from the post last Sunday, and was yesterday also dismissed from his post of First Vice-President, Defence Minister and commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

Colonel Malik, was on Sunday named rapporteur of a committee set up to consider reorganization of the party.

Quito. — Ecuador's Public Works Minister and Social Welfare Minister and Social Welfare Minister and several officials have resigned in the worst political crisis since the country returned to democratic rule in August, 1979. More are expected to follow.

Begin survives Knesset attack over Sinai cash

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem, Jan 26

The Israeli ruling coalition today narrowly defeated a Knesset motion of no confidence which strongly criticized its handling of the evacuation of the remaining one-third of occupied Sinai. The area is due to be handed back to Egypt in April. The Knesset vote was 55-52.

It was the third no confidence motion which Mr Menachem Begin's government has defeated since being returned to power last June. Thirteen MPs were absent, but whips dropped efforts to force a postponement after it became clear that the majority was secure.

The motion by the Labour party came after the Government's surprise defeat yesterday on a resolution seeking to force the large evacuation payments which Ministers recently agreed to make to settlers leaving Sinai.

It is understood that after initial confusion, Government sources are confident that they are under no legal compulsion to scrap the revised compensation agreement, which was recently increased by 20 per cent to a total of more than £136m.

In yesterday's debate, the Labour Opposition accused the Sinai settlers from the town of Yamit of extorting

excessive compensation from the State. It also denounced recent breaches of the law by Sinai settlers and called on the Government to take immediate action against the offenders.

At almost the same time as the voting was taking place in Jerusalem, 15 more families of militants arrived in Yamit to join the protest being organized by the Stop the Withdrawal from the Sinai campaign.

The new protesters joined more than 1,000 illegal squatters who have recently moved into the desert area as part of a plan to prevent the April evacuation going ahead. Other militants are scheduled to arrive soon to take up residence in any property abandoned by those settlers who have decided to leave peacefully.

In recent weeks the anti-withdrawal campaigners have received a boost with the open support of two deputy Ministers, Rabbi Haim Druckman, from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, and David Shifman, from the Ministry of Transport.

Neither has yet been disciplined by the Prime Minister, although Rabbi Druckman is now involved in the United States propaganda tour designed to raise funds for the campaign.

Mubarak to maintain peace effort

From Our Correspondent Cairo, Jan 26

President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt today reaffirmed his Government's commitment to non-alignment and pledged to strive relentlessly to draw Arab states and the Palestinians into peace with Israel.

In his 30-minute address, on being elected chairman of the ruling National Democratic Party, he set Egypt's priorities as peace, economic development and reconstruction, and said he would focus on those during forthcoming talks in Britain, France, West Germany, Italy and the United States.

Although his election was a foregone conclusion since he was the only candidate, Mr Mubarak chose to repeat his theme of non-alignment a day after Cairo announced that 66 Soviet technicians would arrive in Egypt soon to help on industrial projects set up with Soviet assistance in the 1960s.

Some 700 Soviet technicians were expelled from Egypt by President Anwar Sadat in September soon after he ejected the Ambassador and six top diplomats on charges of involvement in Christian-Muslim strife here. That move was considered the lowest point in Egypt's relations with Moscow, already strained after Mr Sadat expelled 17,000 military advisers in 1972.

In his address Mr Mubarak did not touch on relations with either superpower, but he said: "Egypt's strategic interests lie in its ties with Arab, African and Islamic nations, that does not prevent close and deep relations with European states, the United States and others. He emphasized: "The philosophy of non-alignment is best suited to our interests and our principles."

In the late years of his rule, President Sadat had tilted Egypt more to the West, burning bridges with Arab countries and earning the vicious criticism of Muslim fundamentalists. Mr Mubarak has been very careful to emphasize a different approach.

President Mubarak also reaffirmed his intention to introduce big economic reforms (Reuters reports).

Egypt takes hard line, Israel says

From Our Own Correspondent Jerusalem, Jan 26

The Israeli Government today accused Egypt of deliberately hardening its stand on the unresolved issue of Palestinian autonomy. The claim was made on the eve of the second Middle East summit by Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State.

At a briefing for foreign journalists, a senior Government official alleged that the change in Egypt's stand had been taking place gradually since the murder of President Sadat last year, but only recently had surfaced in public statements by Egyptian ministers.

The official also accused the Egyptians of deliberately stalling the deadlocked autonomy negotiations in an attempt to avoid reaching any agreement before April 26, the date on which Israel is due to hand back the remaining 12,000 square miles of occupied Sinai.

The Israelis are particularly angered by Egypt's recent insistence that any tripartite agreement on autonomy must first be acceptable to the Palestinians themselves. They claim that this is a contradiction of the attitude taken by President Sadat, who said only that Egypt would try to convince the Palestinians to accept any autonomy agreement.

The latest exchange of harsh words over the vexed autonomy issue has deepened pessimism in diplomatic circles about Mr Haig's chances of bridging the wide gap which still divides Israel and Egypt after talks which have continued sporadically for more than two years.

Tomorrow Israeli ministers will be pressing Mr Haig to discover what lies behind the alleged hardening of Egypt's position when he flies on to Cairo on Thursday. Official sources have indicated that no further change in Israel's proposed autonomy model, recently outlined in a classified document handed to the Americans, can be expected.

Prior to Mr Haig's arrival in Jerusalem, American sources have already indicated that he does not intend to put forward any personal blueprint for resolving the autonomy deadlock.

Edward Mortimer, page 10

Finland warms to change

From Olli Kivinen, Helsinki, Jan 26

Dr Mauno Koivisto was today elected as Finland's President for the next six years in the 301-strong Council of Electors, where he received 167 votes.

He was supported by the Eurocommunist wing of the Communist Party and the lone Rural Party elector, as well as his own 145 electors, who are Social Democrats and Independents.

Mr Johannes Virolainen (Centre Party) 53, Mr Kalevi Kivistö (Communist) 11, Mr Jan-Magnus Jansson (Swedish People's Party) 11 and Mrs Helvi Sipilä (Liberal) one vote.

Mr Koivisto's victory was clear after his huge popular vote, and his election as President Urho Kekkonen's successor marks an important change in the country's political and social climate. The two men belong to different generations.

Mr Koivisto, aged 81, who was forced to resign because of ill health, came from a generation born in the Czarist tradition and which lived through the first difficult decades of Finland's independence. This made him, especially during his last years, a semi-monarch with imperious habits and suave couriers.

The election this time was conducted with no Soviet interference, and Mr Koivisto

was not Moscow's favourite. Finns do not wish to change the general direction of the country's foreign policy but the election was a watershed in Finland's politics in many other ways. Many Socialists set it as an end for all the scars inflicted in the 1918 civil war between the reds and whites, because Mr Koivisto is the first Socialist President. The civil war has haunted Finns ever since and it has been an important reason for the radicalism of the left.

The balance between the Social Democrats and the Communists tilted even further to the Social Democrats' favour. The Eurocommunists' wing of the Communist Party simultaneously gained more confidence in its never-ending fight against the Stalinists. Moderate forces in the left have strengthened their position considerably.

Mr Koivisto is unusually free of all groups, as he has made his fortune alone. He does not owe anything even to his own Social Democratic party, because his popularity forced it to adopt him as its candidate even though the party leadership was not originally very enthusiastic about the idea.



In their prime: Mr Mikhail Suslov, right, at the November, 1959, parade to commemorate the Bolshevik revolution with Nikita Khrushchev, left, and K. E. Voroshilov, respectively Prime Minister and President at the time.

Suslov's death complicates Kremlin succession

From John Morrison of Reuters, Moscow, Jan 26

The death yesterday of Mr Mikhail Suslov removes a key figure from the Soviet power structure and may considerably complicate the eventual succession to President Leonid Brezhnev.

For years Western analysts and scholars have identified Mr Suslov as the power behind the throne, the king-maker in a series of political struggles at the top and a pillar of Marxist-Leninist orthodoxy.

Western analysts trying to speculate about the future of the Soviet leadership had assumed until today that Mr Suslov would play the same

role of kingmaker when the Brezhnev era ended as he did when Nikita Khrushchev was removed from power in 1964. As Second Secretary to Mr Brezhnev, he would have expected to have a powerful voice in deciding who would succeed the party leader and head of state.

Nobody else among the surviving 13 members of the Politburo is left with the authority to guarantee a smooth transition of power to a new leader. The next most senior party figure is Mr Andrei Kirilenko who, like Mr Brezhnev, is 75 and over the years has been

frequently mentioned as a possible successor.

Mr Kirilenko, up to now the third-ranking party secretary after Mr Brezhnev and Mr Suslov, has deputized for Mr Brezhnev in the past. But like many other senior Kremlin figures, the state of his health is uncertain.

Mr Suslov himself has no obvious successor in his influential role as guardian of Marxist-Leninist ideology, a field in which President Brezhnev left him to play the final arbiter. This gave him wide authority over cultural affairs, education, the press and broadcasting, and over

relations with other communist parties.

It was he who generally had the final say on sensitive questions such as the treatment of the Stalinist past in art and the extent to which the party should tolerate or encourage Russian nationalism. Western analysts here believe it is unlikely that his death will lead to any sudden thaw in the rigidity of Kremlin attitudes.

Other officials who have worked under Mr Suslov's overall guidance are well into their seventies and are unlikely to start pressing for innovation. They include Mr

Boris Ponomarev, aged 76, a close colleague of Mr Suslov and a candidate member of the Politburo, who is party secretary responsible for relations with Communist and left-wing parties outside the Soviet block.

Another official who may gain in influence is Mr Mikhail Zimyanin, aged 67, a party secretary who is responsible for propaganda.

If his death does soften the Kremlin's ideological attitudes in any way, the result is not likely to become evident for some time. — Reuters.

Obituary, page 12

Tougher to the top for Portuguese

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 26

A top-level Portuguese mission to the European Commission yesterday nearly did not make it to the top level. As it was, its urgent case for quick negotiations to enter the EEC was delayed for 25 minutes.

The delegation, led by Senator Francisco Pinto Balsemão, the Prime Minister, and including his foreign and finance ministers and six senior officials, arrived at the headquarters of the Commission at 8.30 am for an early round of talks with Mr Gaston Thorn, the President of the Commission.

The nine members of the delegation then crunched into one of the small express lifts which normally whisk important visitors direct to the thirteenth floor, where all the European commissioners have their picture window offices.

Commission lifts are not constructed to accommodate nine delegates, however important they are. Nevertheless, the delegation was obviously too important for the hall porter to dare to warn them that they were making excessive demands on the Commission's facilities.

History will not recall whose finger pressed the button in the crowded lift to start the delegation on its journey. It will only recall that Mr Thorn, warned of the imminent arrival of his guests, prepared coffee and a smile to greet them.

They did not arrive. Soundings were made and heard. Somewhere deep down its shaft, the overloaded lift had ground to a halt.

Two strong porters were, therefore, recruited and ordered to the winches. They hand-hauled the nine increasingly cramped Portuguese to the next floor and freedom.

US snubs Third World news agencies

From Stephen Downer, Mexico City, Jan 26

A Unesco conference on the International Programme for the Development of Communications, has agreed unanimously to create news agencies in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The 35-nation conference meeting in Asagulco decided yesterday to allocate \$910,000 (£481,000) to the projects this year. The United States supported the projects but refused to contribute to the general fund that will finance them. American government officials and Western pub-

lishers feel that the projects will endanger the free flow of international information.

Mr William Harley, the United States delegate, said that his country had achieved its four targets: private sector participation and bilateral aid had been permitted; the unity of the Western block had been preserved; and a dialogue with moderate African states had been maintained.

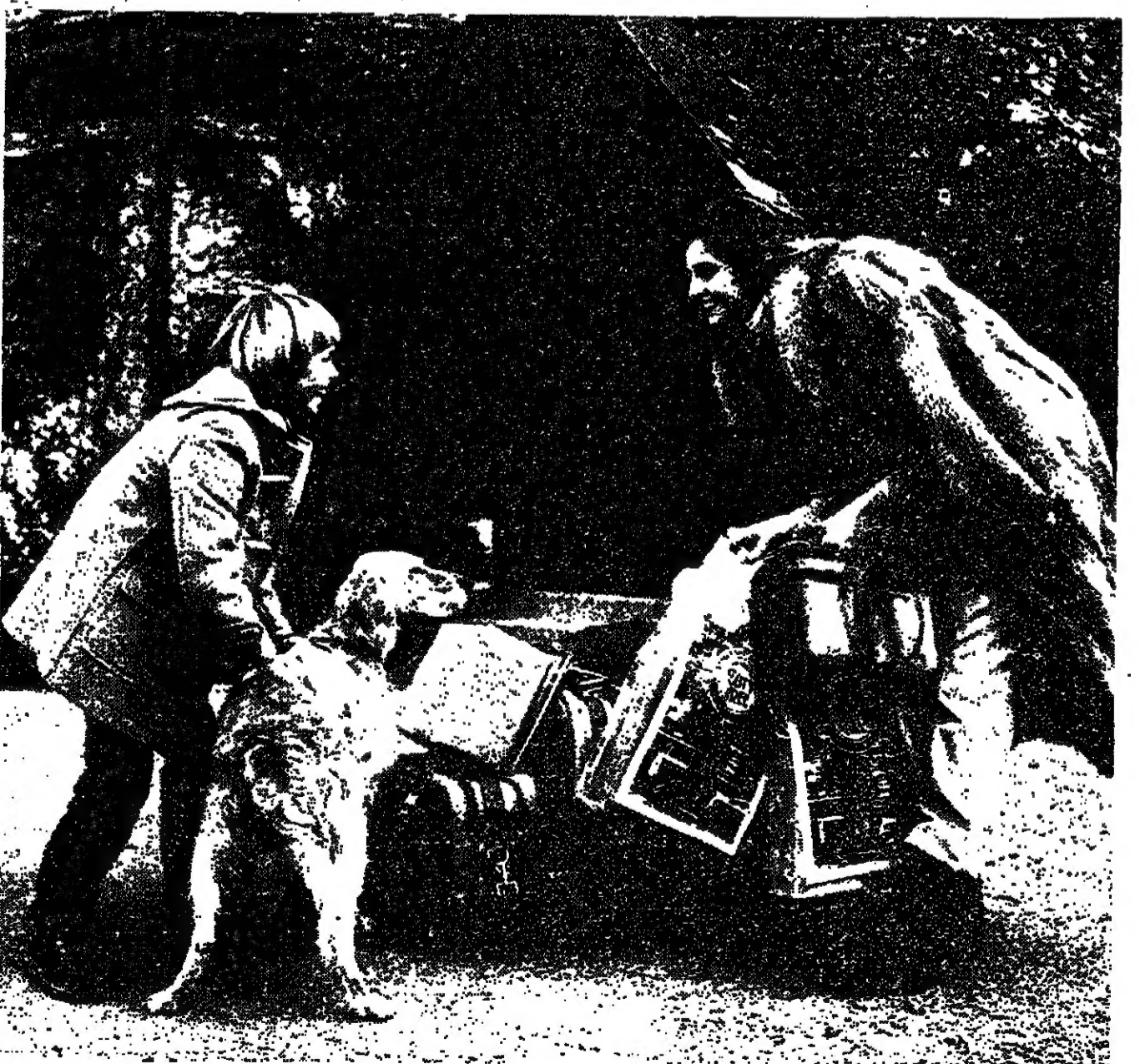
He added: "The main point was financing. Our whole programme is based on a

bilateral approach. It is unlikely that the United States will be giving funds to the special account."

Soviet block and Third World delegates had a long meeting over the weekend before deciding not to press a demand that all Unesco media projects be financed through the agency's general fund. Such a move, according to Mr Harley, would have banned bilateral aid.

The conference agreed to spend \$245,000 on feasibility studies for projects in Africa

Kampala: Mr David Anyoti, Uganda's Information Minister, accusing the foreign press of extreme hostility towards Uganda, said today his Government would in future accredit only "qualified, objective and bona fide journalists" (Reuters reports). They must have an established office in Kampala and not in Nairobi or any other neighbouring country. "Such persons should not be a stranger, or freelance journalist who files for other news services, and proof of this must be given," he added.



What makes an airline human

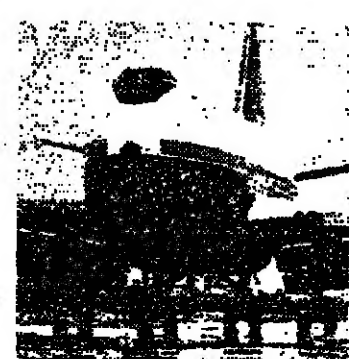
With Pakistan International Airlines, it's just like coming home.

All great airlines are similar in many ways. The need for a high degree of professionalism, advanced technology, efficiency and reliability are common to all. Few airlines achieve the truly highest standards because the one factor, above all others, which makes this possible is intangible. Ambiance.

Pakistan International Airlines is one such airline... it's just like coming home. When next you fly to America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa or Asia, fly Pakistan International Airlines.



Great people to fly with





# Peacemaker at UN will be an active diplomat

From Michael Hamlyn, New York, Jan 26

The new Secretary-General of the United Nations looks forward to a time when he or his successor is deeply involved in the peacekeeping processes of the Middle East. "I will sound to you mainly over-optimistic," he told *The Times* today. "But I have the hope that at some stage the good offices of the Secretary-General, perhaps not during my mandate, will be sought for the solution of the Middle Eastern problem. I think that at some stage when one has to work on a comprehensive solution, the presence of the United Nations will be indispensable, and the first phase of this presence would be a kind of personal diplomacy by the Secretary-General."

Speaking during the first interview he has given to an overseas newspaper since his election, Dr Javier Perez de Cuellar, who is 62, made it clear that he regards his role very much as that of an active diplomat. "I intend to maintain, and if possible increase, the United Nations Secretary-General's involvement in the decision. He has suited his actions to his words by sending under his personal representatives around the world."

## NEWS IN SUMMARY

### Kim rejects Seoul approach

Tokyo. — North Korea has rejected a proposal by President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea for a Korean reunification under a common constitution, the (North) Korean Central News Agency reported.

It quoted Vice-President Kim Il As of North Korea as saying: "To our regret, it cannot be considered as a proposal worthy of any significance."

President Chun suggested last week that the two Koreas establish a joint consultative conference for national reunification which would be empowered to draw up a constitution. He reaffirmed his desire for talks with President Kim Il Sung of North Korea on the reunification issue.

### DC10 inquiry judge resigns

Wellington. — The New Zealand Government has accepted the resignation of Mr Justice Maugham, a High Court judge who as Royal Commissioner produced a controversial report on the DC10 crash on Mount Erebus in Antarctica in 1979 in which all 257 people on board died. (Our Correspondent writes).

Last month the Court of Appeal rejected his finding that Air New Zealand officials had lied before the commission.

### Lockheed affair jail term

Tokyo. — Mr Tokuji Wakasa, chairman of All Nippon Airways was given a three-year jail sentence suspended for five years on charges of perjury in Diet related to the Lockheed bribery scandal.

The Tokyo district court also found Mr Wakasa, aged 67, guilty of violating laws of foreign exchange regulations for accepting 163m yen (about £400,000) in under-the-table money in three instalments in connection with the purchase of Lockheed L1011 TriStar jets.

### Judge criticizes village justice

Salisbury. — Judge Fieldsend, the Zimbabwean Chief Justice, has criticised village court hearings at which a white farmer aged 64 was convicted of adultery with the wife of a black employee, the *Herald* newspaper reported today. The judge described the hearing, held on Sunday in front of 2,000 jeering spectators in a sports stadium as a public spectacle out of keeping with the administration of justice.

The farmer said he is appealing formally against his 25500 (375) fine. He originally agreed to pay it half in cash and half in cattle.

### Iranians clash

Manila. — Eight Iranians were wounded when a grenade exploded at the Philippine Embassy in Manila during a clash between Iranian student supporters and opponents of Ayatollah Khomeini.

### 200 drown in Peru

Lima. — The Peruvian Government is mounting an emergency airlift of aid to a north-eastern jungle region where 200 people are said to have been drowned in floods.

### Taking liquids

Moscow. — Two Pentecostals on hunger strike in the American Embassy here have resumed taking liquids after refusing them for more than 48 hours.

## Up the road with 600 Salvadoran guerrillas

From Paul Ellman, San Salvador, Jan 26

The last sign of the Salvadoran Army had been 30 minutes before a checkpoint manned by languid soldiers with only a perfunctory interest in a traveller's destination. The rutted road had become nothing more than a boulder-strewn track and the bustle of the flatlands in the midst of the cotton harvest had given way to the stillness of mountains covered in brush and parched trees.

Suddenly, two columns of guerrillas appeared, jogging with their weapons over their shoulders. This was the other side of what passes for the front line in the two-year-old civil war which has claimed more than 30,000 lives, a "liberated zone" controlled by the Revolutionary Army of the People (ERP), the biggest of the five guerrilla groups operating under the umbrella of the Farabundo Marti Liberation Front.

The guerrillas were friendly and relaxed, more interested in scrounging cigarettes than establishing the identity of the stranger in their midst. Their weapons were a mixture of M16 carbines, which the United States claims came from North Vietnam, and G3 assault rifles, supplied by West Germany to El Salvador security forces. Their dress was a combination of olive green fatigues and blue jeans and in the case of two girls no more than 12 years old, pink and blue party frocks.

They said that the rest of the journey to their camp would have to be on foot and set off up the mountainside, peering up to allow an out-of-control journalist to catch his breath.

The camp is the ERP's operational headquarters for the south-eastern front, a prosperous farming area some 100 miles from the capital. It is strategically located, across which small boats slip at night from Nicaragua to drop supplies for the guerrillas at the scores of inlets along the coast.

The camp has been operational for a year and last October successfully beat off an attack by Government forces spearheaded by the elite Atlacatl battalion, which has undergone training by United States Special Forces from the Panama Canal Zone.

Despite the severity of guerrilla life and a dreary diet of beans, rice and tortillas occasionally supplemented with meat, morale among the 600 guerrillas in the camp appeared high, as did discipline.

The guerrillas' commander on this section of the front is Comandante Juan Ramon Medrano (nom-de-guerre Comrade Baltasar) a former socialist student aged 31, who has been a full-time revolutionary since the mid-1970s. Señor Medrano is also a member of the 15-man Unified Revolutionary Directorate of the Guerrilla Front, its principal policy-making body.

A sharp-featured man in a floppy grey hat, he sat with his hands clasped on his knees and the guerrillas' political aims, offering a surprisingly moderate set of goals for those who live in mutual Marxism officially espoused by the front.

On the future of free enterprise, for example, Señor Medrano observed: "We'll have to allow private enterprise. Otherwise, how will we attract foreign investment?"

Asked about relations with the United States, which is providing economic and military support to the junta headed by President Jose Napoleon Duarte, he said: "We view the United States with respect with all countries, including the United States."

When it was pointed to him that his remarks were a far cry from other pronouncements by the guerrilla leadership, Señor Medrano's response was a dry laugh. He also made it clear that whatever plans might exist for El Salvador in the event of a Government victory, the guerrillas intended to do their utmost to disrupt elections scheduled for March 28.

The elections are seen as vital to the future of United States policy in Central America and were endorsed at the last summit meeting of the Organization of American States.

## Time on side of boy who likes US life

From Christopher Thomas, Chicago, Jan 26

Walter Polovchak does not seem the kind of youth who could rouse the Soviet Union into sending a formal protest note to the United States Government.

He leads a quiet, ordinary life on Chicago's West Side, one of those miracles of urban, ethnic America — a decent neighbourhood. It is his desire to stay there that has created a small but nagging diplomatic incident between the superpowers.

The Soviet Union wants him to return to his native Ukraine. And America is not prepared to make him go. He has become a cause célèbre in the eyes of the United States news media, a symbol of the American belief that "here is better."

Walter, aged 14, left the Ukraine with his parents at the beginning of 1980 and moved into the Chicago ethnic neighbourhood. Anna and Michael Polovchak immediately hated it and when they decided to go home, Walter ran away to his room and hid. He was 12 and a minor, and that is the heart of the problem.

But he is now also a naturalized American. When he refused to go home he quickly achieved political asylum, and citizenship was a natural corollary.

The Soviet authorities have consistently supported his parents' claim that as a minor Walter should be sent home. American public opinion at first agreed that the family should not be broken up; then last August the parents suddenly returned to the Soviet Union and the mood turned promptly against them.

Initially Walter stayed in Chicago with an older cousin and was then assigned to foster parents in the heart of the city's Ukrainian ethnic community. He remains with them now in their flat, displaying his Americanism by playing football and declaring emphatically: "I do not want to go home to jail!"

The Ukrainian community has rallied in every material way to defend his right to stay in the country. The legal fight with counsel representing his parents has probably already been won but it is not over: Mr and Mrs Polovchak are now attempting to reverse the granting of political asylum and naturalization because Walter is a minor.

They might have a point. What they do not have is time. Under Illinois state rules Walter could cease to be a minor at 16 if he is independently supported. And in the overcrowded judicial system of the United States it should not prove impossible to protract events for a few more years.



Walter Polovchak: "I don't want to go to jail."

## Paul Getty museum strikes gold

From Ivor Davis, Los Angeles, Jan 26

The \$700m (£350m) worth of oil stocks left the J. Paul Getty Museum in Malibu, California, in a matter of minutes, almost \$1,300m, according to the *Los Angeles Times*.

After more than five years of legal wrangles the Getty legacy is expected to be granted probate soon and it will provide about \$54m a year for the museum to spend. This will make the museum, which overlooks the Pacific Ocean, the richest in the world.

Once probate is granted lawyers and executors handling the complex can expect to earn about \$25.4m, says the newspaper.

Last year it took \$4.5m to operate the museum which the oil magnate, who died in 1976, never saw. Now the trustees and Mr Stephen Garrett, the museum's British director, are wrestling with the problems of how to spend the more than \$50m each year.

Mr Garrett has said he wants to avoid "arrogant flagrant and dollar waving" with the Getty money.

The *Los Angeles Times* notes that just how much the museum will actually get is not certain because the market value of the 9.3 million shares of Getty oil stock has generally fallen over the past several months.

At today's market price the stock is worth nearly \$550m and continues to pay dividends of about \$5.6m every three months.

The rest of the museum's expected income is made up of about \$714m in investments that are earning interest daily, so the newspaper estimates the expected windfall will add up to \$1,260m.

## Journalists barred by E. Germany

From David Blow, Vienna, Jan 26

The East German authorities have refused permission for Western correspondents to attend the federal synod of the country's Lutheran Church next weekend at Herrnhut, in Oberlausitz. The decision mainly affects West German correspondents and is a setback coming so soon after the West German Chancellor's visit to East Germany.

No reason has been given, but it clearly has to do with the Lutheran Church's embarrassing open criticism of militarism in East Germany and its advocacy of community service as an alternative to military service.

## Deng embarks on huge party investigation

From David Bonavia, Peking, Jan 26

For some Chinese the new year — year of the dog in the Chinese zodiac — may bring trouble.

Frustrated in his desire to carry out trials of former extreme left wingers in the provinces — as follow-up to the trial of the "Gang of Four" which ended a year ago yesterday — Vice-Chairman Deng Xiaoping is organizing a big investigation of the Communist Party's 39 million members.

Faced with recalcitrance and passivity among many middle-ranking officials, Deng, the effective head of the party, is determined to prune the bureaucracy and expel those who oppose his

## Are we victims of the new sexual orthodoxy?

Shame about sexual activity has been replaced by a preoccupation with it that is making many people unhappy. Celia Haddon, author of a new study, argues the case for a counter revolution.

The way that we love and make love nowadays is meant to be free. We are in what is called "the sexual revolution". The old rules of a Victorian morality have been abolished. We are now free to do what we want.

But how free is our new freedom? I believe that a new sexual orthodoxy has grown up. Imperceptibly it shapes our lives, just as strongly as the old morality. The new rules exist, even if they are not acknowledged as such.

This new orthodoxy expects all individuals to be sexually active — the young, the middle-aged and even the elderly. It expects them also to perform skilfully, and experience a great deal of physical pleasure. If an individual fails to be sexually active, fails to master sexual skills, or fails in sexual response, he or she is classified, not as immoral, but as sexually sick.

In particular, an individual who is not having a sexual "outlet" (note the implication of an innate sex drive) is regarded as a sexual deviant. Bachelors nowadays are expected to be gay. The luckless man who has neither girlfriends nor boyfriends is disparaged as "neuter". He is not a proper man.

The rebels in our society today are the celibates. But even the religious celibates have begun to lose confidence in their chosen role. Many more seek to marry, or find it necessary to apologize for their lack of sexual experience. As one best-selling sex book put it: "An active and rewarding sex life, at a mature level, is indispensable if one is to achieve his full potential as a member of the human race."

Behind this insistence upon the value of sex for everybody, lie, I believe, three powerful myths which have come to dominate our sexual life. They distort the way we picture sex. These myths are that sex is harmless fun, that it is good for people, and that it is natural.

The first idea, that sex is harmless fun, is ceaselessly propagated by paperback books, pop songs, advertising, and in particular, radio shows and films. Well-meaning social workers and counsellors reassure their clients that it is so. They seek to relieve guilt by maintaining there is nothing in the nature of sex to be guilty about.

Yet this insistence on the harmless fun of sex blinds us to reality. There is a demonic aspect, a dark side to sex. For anger and aggression can be channelled into sexual behaviour. Any couple who have made love after a blazing row know that anger intensifies sexual excitement. Sex is not just exciting and harmless; it can be exciting and dangerous.

Rape is the most obvious example of aggressive sex. In rape, making love literally

becomes making war. Yet rape victims often find that society blames them for not saying "no" or for not being "virgins". Rapists often get sympathy by claiming that it was just sexual desire which got out of hand. In a society which pretends that all sex is harmless pleasure, it is perhaps natural that they should be confused about their own impulses.

Nor is sex always good for people. It is not even always healthy. Because we expect sex to be both spontaneous and also skilled, we have opened up a Pandora's box. The IUD, the condom and the diaphragm interfere with our high standards of lovemaking. Partly as a result of this choice, deaths from contraception in Britain now outnumber deaths from childbirth.

Casual sex is socially acceptable, but it is not socially acceptable to take precautions against disease during a one-night stand. The old enemy, sexually transmitted diseases, flourishes therefore. It used to be thought anti-biotics would do away with VD, but some bugs have developed survival strategies by becoming either immune to penicillin or producing a symptomless strain even in men.

The moral argument is that celibacy or monogamy are the best protection against such risks. But the health argument in their favour is not that strong. Sex remains safer than either smoking or drinking. What is worrying, though, is that many people seem to think there are no risks at all. The new orthodoxy has convinced them, in the teeth of the evidence, that sex is healthy.

And if sex is seen to be healthy, anything less than full performance now seems unhealthy. Sexual activity to a certain standard is the outward visible sign of an inward invisible health. Lack of orgasm, or impotence, or some other sexual difficulties are treated as a disease. "A person who is not healthy sexually is not a healthy person" is how one American sex therapist put it.

Those whose sexual skills are not up to standard may suffer many painful feelings. In particular both men and women are harassed by the idea that lovemaking should produce an orgasm for both partners. In America a sex therapy industry now offers courses of training towards

a reasonable research decision. But when the popularizers began to disseminate the Kinsey findings, it encouraged the idea that the goal of sexual behaviour was orgasm.

1966 MASTERS AND JOHNSON

Dr William H Masters and his research associate (later his wife) Virginia E Johnson, took up where Kinsey left off. Instead of asking people what they did and how often, they got couples to have sexual intercourse in the laboratory, where bodily responses would be scientifically measured. Where Kinsey had run into much opposition, Masters and Johnson found their work surprisingly well accepted when they published *Human Sexual Response* in 1966.

Their laboratory volunteers had to be good at sex. In particular all their women volunteers had regular orgasms. Masters and Johnson organized their findings into a framework that assumed an act of sexual behaviour was the same for both sexes, excitement rising to a plateau, culminating in orgasm then dying down again. Once such the assumption was that in love-making both male and female had one or more orgasms each.

Masters and Johnson then moved on to develop a therapy for sexual problems with *Human*

## The four researchers who redefined sex

1949 KINSEY

Professor Alfred C. Kinsey, a respectable entomologist from Indiana, turned from collecting gull wasps to collecting information about sex. He produced statistics which shocked post-war America; one in three men had had a homosexual experience, half the married men had been unfaithful to their wives; half America's brides were no longer virgins.

Put the other way, those same statistics suggested that a high proportion of people were heterosexual before marriage. But Kinsey's two reports, *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* and *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female*, emphasized activity rather than sexual inactivity. If so many people were doing it, the implication was that it couldn't be that immoral.

Kinsey's view of sex and society was equally influential. His reports paved the way for a repressive society, holding back a natural sexual impulse. With occasional exceptions, he wrote about sexuality as if it was an innate drive seeking to express itself either in one order or another.

But where the moralists would consider this drive bad, Kinsey considered it good. Society's restraints against sex, campaigns against obscenity, moral reformers — were bad.

As a way of reducing sexual behaviour to statistics, Kinsey chose to count orgasms. This was

## 1974 COMFORT

The most influential sex manual of all, *The Joy of Sex* and *More Joy of Sex* have been far too sophisticated to make this error. Well written and tastefully illustrated, these bestsellers are the work of a British biologist, Dr Alex Comfort. A gifted man who has written poetry and novels, he is one of the few experts in the field with a readable prose style.

Dr Comfort claims a great deal for recreational sex play. He thinks, may be psychotherapeutic, that it may drain away aggression, as in the hippy slogan "Make Love Not War". The "pleasure" of sex play, he argues, may be psychotherapeutic for individuals. "There may be other places we can learn to express all of ourselves, and do it better than we can in sex," he wrote in 1974.

*The Joy of Sex* and *More Joy of Sex* are frequently recommended by therapists and counsellors. As pillow books, they get a high standard, rather like gourmet recipe books. There is the same civilized tone and a touch of connoisseur snobbishness.

In these and other similar books, recreational sex is given a new importance. Two sociologists who studied Alex Comfort's sex manuals and 11 others commented that sex was "being asked to provide that which heretofore the family, organized religion and the workplace together afforded".

Celia Haddon's *The Limits of Sex* is published by Michael Joseph on Monday, February 1, price £7.95.

## 1966 KINSEY

Dr William H Masters and his research associate (later his wife) Virginia E Johnson, took up where Kinsey left off. Instead of asking people what they did and how often, they got couples to have sexual intercourse in the laboratory, where bodily responses would be scientifically measured. Where Kinsey had run into much opposition, Masters and Johnson found their work surprisingly well accepted when they published *Human Sexual Response* in 1966.

Their laboratory volunteers had to be good at sex. In particular all their women volunteers had regular orgasms. Masters and Johnson organized their findings into a framework that assumed an act of sexual behaviour was the same for both sexes, excitement rising to a plateau, culminating in orgasm then dying down again. Once such the assumption was that in love-making both male and female had one or more orgasms each.

Masters and Johnson then moved on to develop a therapy for sexual problems with *Human*

## 1966 MASTERS AND JOHNSON

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## Are we victims of the new sexual orthodoxy?

Shame about sexual activity has been replaced by a preoccupation with it that is making many people unhappy. Celia Haddon, author of a new study, argues the case for a counter revolution.

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THE ARTS

Television

Mask within mask

John Updike's fictions are, if anything, too smoothly under control, and for the first half hour of last night's Arena profile (BBC2) he looked like achieving a comparable effect in the world of fact. Childhood, boyhood, youth came serenely back through pictures and poems; the literary superstar carried out his metropolitan duties with a benign mixture of acquiescence and cynicism.

Home, then, to his mother, a haven of peace and stillness whom he has come uncannily to resemble. "He was a luminous boy, very little opacity." Her answers came out simply and poetically. "Sometimes the light he throws is a long time getting to me, because I'm that dull. How long does it take light to come from a star?" Son, like mother, was a Lutheran, with no qualms about saying the creed in church. The beauty of the Pennsylvania autumn seemed to have found their perfect human complement.

As the programme probed, the mask began to crack, revealing a colder one beneath. Questioned as to whether the chronicler of marital breakdown had not perhaps sacrificed too much humanity on the altar of his art, the journalist son was evasive, then uneasy, and then, fetching terrible sighs, delivered a condemnation. In some strange way the writer's ruthless self-exposure had left casualties all round and himself unscathed. We left him with his second

wife, and a patriarchal furrow on his brow. If the above sounds mean, it is the meanness of the medium. As a portrait of the artist, David Cheshire's film was richly illuminating, and should send people to the novels and poems with antennae alerted. As a portrait of the man, it suggested that the scales of moral judgment were in a rather delicate state of balance.

Commitments (BBC1), by Dusty Hughes, was a well-timed play for today. If it had been shown last Friday, when *Newsweek* tried a Trotskyite group in absentia, the timing would have been perfect. The stage origins of this excellent production were readily apparent: the entrances and exits were as smooth as the dovetailings in a good piece of carpentry, and the dialogue had a restless urgency. The plot was vestigial: Hughes' concern was to hold up some embattled characters for our admiring contemplation.

As a critical former member of one such brotherhood, Hughes has been enabled to present his subversive microcosm with unpolished authenticity, which may do something to help bridge a yawning social divide. The hardship, the paranoia, the malign human effects of the vengeful ideology underpinning revolutionary socialism were tangible at every moment. Glued until the end, I was glad when it was over.

Michael Church

Theatre

Barbican openings

The Royal Shakespeare Company's first season at the new Barbican Centre will open on June 9, with a new production by Trevor Nunn, the company's joint artistic director, of *Henry IV*, parts 1 and 2, which will be given at matinee and evening performances. The season will be rounded off by the plays which reopened the present Stratford-upon-Avon theatre in 1932 after the 1926 fire.

In the announcement of the coming season's activities the company still made no mention of what is to be performed on the opening night of the Barbican Centre, March 3. They are keeping their contribution to the gala opening as a surprise.

During the year the company is to mount 24 productions in Stratford and London as well as making two tours in the United Kingdom and a tour of Australia. There will be 12 new Stratford productions at the two theatres there, a record for any Stratford season.

After the *Henry IV* plays at

the Barbican, the season will continue with *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *All's Well that Ends Well*, and *Winter's Tale*, all transferred from Stratford. In September the first new play of the opening Barbican season will be *Poppy*, by Peter Nichols, to be directed by Terry Hands, the company's other joint artistic director. In addition, during the season, Peter Hall and Peter Brook, who have long been associated with the Royal Shakespeareans, are to mount productions which will be announced later.

At Stratford the five producers will be Ron Davies, Howard Davies, Terry Hands, Barry Kyle and Adrian Noble. Davies and Noble will be producing there for the first time. The season opens on March 31 with *Macbeth*, not seen at the theatre for eight years, directed by Howard Davies and with Bob Peck in the title role and Sara Kestelman as Lady Macbeth.

Christopher Warman

Double bill

Old Half Moon

The first play of the evening, *A Yorkshire Tragedy*, sometimes attributed to William Shakespeare and the new York Players Theatre Company is quite noisily reminding the public of that attribution. As a short gallop through Jacobean mayhem in the unusual setting of England herself, circa 1606, it shows streaks of possibly Shakespearean language — or imitation — but it seems more the sort of thing Shakespeare would not want attributed. Telling the story of a mad driven mad by impoverishment, it features the unnatural slaughter of his children so they will not become beggars and shows his ultimate transformation through the love of his wife, although that comes a bit late for healthy family life.

Michael Batz's direction compresses it into a curtain-raiser for the similarly themed play of ruin by Chekhov that follows. Capturing just a bare sense of gory impetus, he hurries the actors on and off a bare black stage. The absence of scenery has the chief advantage of depriving Damien Thomas of anything to chew, except his words. As the deranged husband, he roars and agonizes, but tragic substance is elusive. If Shakespeare had a hand in it, he did it for money, much as he might supply an episode for *The Swann* today.

Mr Thomas next finds himself at the centre of Chekhov's apprentice piece, *On the Great Road*, as an aristocrat destroyed by a faithless woman. The destruction is nearly complete, except for some barbed derision of the peasants he is forced to consort with, and beg drinks from, but in this instance Mr Thomas has found an impressive tattered dignity which only deserts him when he tries too hard to be drunk. He should be fighting for solisity, but simply falls around instead.

Set in a seedy couch house among disreputable travellers, the play startlingly anticipates *The Lower Depths* and even Eugene O'Neill. Perhaps such an impoverished setting better lends itself to the limitations of a new university troupe, but there is fascination in the piece and some of it escapes into Mr Batz's production.

Ned Chaillet

Jazz

Chris Conner

Ronnie Scott's

One could almost forgive Chris Conner anything in the strangeness of the inclusion in her repertoire of "The Wind", a song by the superlative Californian pianist Russ Freeman, who consorted so successfully with Chet Baker in the Fifties. "The Wind" is a perfect example of the cool West Coast style of that era: including a self-recriminatory cry of "You fool! You fool!" and a line about "empty arms holding a ghost", its misty introversion calls for a trenchcoat and a trilby; it might be the theme for a remake of "You're never alone with a Strand". Lacking the props, Miss Conner left the character at that and sang the standard saloon repertoire: "All or Nothing at All", "Get Out of Town", "Lover", "Just in Time" (the last curiously enunciated as "Just a dime..."). Fondly remembered by many for her work with the Stan Kenton orchestra 30 years ago, she retains all the professionalism associated with big-band singers, but

time has not been particularly kind to her vocal equipment. What once seemed to be an interesting, even existentialist detachment comes across in an older woman as superficiality: her delivery has not broadened to encompass the mature emotions. More seriously, on Monday night she sang persistently flat, particularly when negotiating downward leaps, and her phrasing seemed to be the product of memory and reflex. Her reading of Billie Holiday's "Good Morning, Heartache" was unduly declamatory (the treatment of the line "Stop haunting me now" was closer to Vincent Price than Lady Day), and Michel Legrand's ballad deserved neither its advance billing as "a very beautiful song" nor its solemn delivery. Unusually, Pat Smythe's piano could not paper over the cracks, although Allan Ganley's drumming ensured a general momentum. Perhaps there will be an improvement during the fortnight they are spending together.

Richard Williams

Opera: John Higgins welcomes Basel's dazzling approach to twentieth-century Verdi

The West Side story of 'Rigoletto'



A morning shave for the Duke during "Ella mi fu rapita"; and (above) henchman Rigoletto cursed by Monterone.

At least two productions of Verdi's *Rigoletto* this year will uproot the action from sixteenth-century Mantua and transplant it to twentieth-century New York. Jonathan Miller next season at the Coliseum intends to set the opera in the early 1950s at the time of *The Godfather*. And he could be on to a winner. Jean-Claude Auvray is already proving at the Basel City Theatre that *Rigoletto* and gangsterdom make excellent stage partners.

Auvray in his dazzlingly effective version has decided to go a little further back in history, and his chosen period is prohibition America. The Duke becomes the king of bootlegging, and his lucrative racket going, and his courtier-hoodlums quite clearly rule the West Side. He and Rigoletto inhabit a pure Warner Bros world of *Scarface* and *Public Enemy*, of spats and gas, where the rival gangs shoot it out along the waterfront among hastily converted warehouses and where Dukes are really Dooks. Basel's programme comes covered not with the family portraits of Verdi and his librettist Piave but with the images of Cagney, Bogart and, of course, Edward G. Robinson.

The times and places of some Verdi operas are surely immutable. It is difficult to imagine *Falstaff* outside the confines of Windsor and its forest or *Simon Boccanegra* beyond the shores of Genoa. Others, including *Rigoletto* and *Ballo*, are movable — after all in both those instances the ruling censor required Verdi to change the original setting, which is at least half a licence for his interpreters to do likewise. The two rules to be observed when making a switch are that light should be thrown on a facet of the opera which often remains in the shadows and that the alteration should be complete. Both are meticulously carried out in Basel.

The point made most forcefully by Auvray is the double standard by which Rigoletto lives. At work he is the all-licensed henchman, procurer and caterer, laying on banquets and women in equal proportions for his master. He has the boss's ear, advising him on the next man to be fitted with a wooden overcoat and tossed into the Hudson River; in this particular case it is Monterone, whose

daughter is shown in the prelude being thrown off the premises once she has served the Duke's needs. A gang headquarters Rigoletto, for his power and his sharp tongue, is the most hated member of the mob. So much for the West Side story. At home on the East Side Rigoletto reverts to being the loving father. Tragedy occurs when his two worlds, which he has gone to such care to keep apart, collide.

The double life is eloquently expressed in Hubert Monloup's sets. "Work" takes place in abandoned garages or storehouses, hastily fitted with a few pool tables below the iron catwalks. Act II in particular is a triumph. The curtain rises on the Duke being shaved and manicured — the top

gangsters were always the best groomed — alongside a Rolls and a vintage Peugeot during "Ella mi fu rapita". George Raft could not have had it better. Home is a pretty white-timbered house half-covered in creeper on the East Side, of the sort you would have to go to Vermont to find. It is a world away from the speakeasies where Rigoletto has to make his daily bread.

But, Auvray suggests, it is also a prison. Glida, accurately sung and ably acted by Ghislaine Raphaël, a recent graduate of the Paris Opera Studio, never falls completely out of love with the Duke even after his abduction and rape. She takes down his portrait from the garage wall while telling

her father about those flirtations in church ("Tutte le feste"). The Duke (Paul Frey, a good-looking tenor, whose voice could do with a stronger top) is no more of a villain than those in his employ and at least his standards are consistent. It is Rigoletto who commits the real crime by pretending half his life to be what he is not. Eduard Tuganjan, a discovery from Romania, turns him into a thoroughly unappealing figure, with his cane and his club-foot, paunchy and balding, fretting that his secrets will come out as indeed they do. Tuganjan, whose baritone easily encompasses a role which lies uncomfortably high for many, was making his debut as Rigoletto but he sounded as if he had been singing it all his life.

The technical resources of Basel's seven-year-old theatre are enormous. It has no difficulty in staging a production as complex as this *Rigoletto* sandwiched between a ballet (*La Fille mal gardée*) and a play (*Comme d'habitude*). The orchestra, under Ingo Ingensand, is decent, and the chorus outstandingly good and obviously receptive to a production as imaginative and as persuasive as this.

The idea of a "Scarface" *Rigoletto* took root in Auvray's mind when he was on tour with the Paris Opera in New York some years ago. One of the Italian tenors in the company took him to dinner at a restaurant with clear Mafia connotations. Throughout the meal the tenor was referred to as "Ducca" and eventually Auvray plucked up the courage to ask why. "Because he came from Mantua" was the waiter's contemptuous reply. Now Auvray can probably take the credit for being the first producer to turn the Duke's courtier Borsia into Borsalino. His next stop is Paris for the new *Tosca* at the Opera with Kiri Te Kanawa and Jose Carreras in March; there will be no period change.

The Basel *Rigoletto* has further performances on February 3, 5, 14 and 27, with probably more to follow in March and April. It returns to the repertory next season, in October.

On the way to Basel I caught Les Contes d'Hoffmann at Zurich. The two houses could not be architecturally less alike, but Zurich too has been getting a reputation for innovation now that Jean-Pierre Ponnelle does much of his work there. He is responsible for three of this season's new productions: *Le Comte d'Orges* has already been described on this page, *Enfances* comes next month and *Carmen* (with Baltsa and Carreras) in April.

Hoffmann, alas, was not staged by Ponnelle but it did have one outstanding performance — or rather four — by the American bass-baritone Simon Estes, as on previous occasions, namely Hoffmann's loves from him. It is high time that Mr Estes, who sings Amfortas in the new Bayreuth Parsifal this summer, was heard at Covent Garden.

Galleries

Art and the Sea

ICA

It is likely that, almost wherever you may be living in Britain, outside London, you cannot have remained unaware that during the past few months we have been having a sort of scattered, informal celebration of the sea and the artist and those points where they come happily into collision. For an allegedly seafaring nation, we have not always done very well by arts connected with the sea. Mainly we have shunted them off into a special category marked "marine artist" with all that somehow implies of the second-rate.

We certainly do not call Turner a marine artist, even when he was, because he is too good. But are the rest necessarily in a lower class than artists tout court? It must have been one of the many purposes of the last year's exhibitions to find out; as well, of course, as finding out how many British artists are today totally uninvolved, at least part of their time, with the sea, and what they make of it.

The show at the ICA until February 7 is a compressed summary of nine different galleries, nine different galleries. It does not offer easily capulated answers to any of these questions. It does at least demonstrate that there are the 139 artists in various media who make up this final show, all of them drawing inspiration somehow from the sea. Some — a very few — are thoroughly traditional. Paul Wright and Christopher Hall, for instance, both paint the sea and ships in a way which would have taken nobody by surprise in the heyday of Scott Tukey, and it is undeniably intriguing to see photographs of Len Tabner painting his storm scenes on the spot, for all the world like the photographs of "Fundamentally, I am tremendously interested in people and in the human predicament. I sometimes say 'I am going to paint this landscape without figures', but I very rarely do so. Figures not only dictate the mood, but provide points of emphasis. Dickens once said that he invented characters and they ran away with him. I find that in my pictures."

Well-rounded man that he is, Weight much enjoys collecting the work of other artists, a taste developed just after the Second World War, when Carlisle Art Gallery asked him to buy for them. Initially with £100 a year, a high point came when, at his last sitting for Orrovia Pisarro's portrait (now in the Tate Gallery), she gave him a pastel by her grandfather Camille, saying she was sure he would have liked another painter to have it. He has also swapped works with painter friends like L. S. Lowry and Ruskin Spear, and has some pre-Raphaelites. Nothing abstract: not because he does not like some abstract painting, but because his tastes, like his work, are rooted in nature, and English nature at that.

Roger Berthoud

John Russell Taylor



Carel Weight: "a little more than one normally sees"

Interview

Rooted in English nature

Carel Weight, RA, the subject of a retrospective show at the Royal Academy's Diploma Galleries, reviewed by John Russell Taylor on January 12, is often seen as quintessentially English in style. In fact he has German blood on his mother's side: her father was a Hamburg chiroplastist who settled in London, becoming one of the first to tackle the corns of rich Edwardians. Famous singers and musicians like Caruso and Kreisler were among his clients, and he could doubtless have made a fortune. Weight reflects wistfully, had he not been admitted to the turf.

Grandfather passed on his skills to Weight's mother, who preferred chiroplasty to minding the home at Shepherd's Bush, lodging young Carrel (named after a Dutch godfather) to a dear but impoverished friend in Chelsea. He saw his parents only at weekends.

Father was a reluctant Barclay's Bank clerk of unfulfilled talents, and the adolescent Carrel was found to have a fine baritone voice. A large female singing teacher piled *Encyclopaedia Britannica* on his stomach and pummeled his singing muscles, drastic treatment which killed any sense of vocation, but revived awareness of a gift for drawing people.

His parents were sceptical, but promised him a year at Hammer smith art school. There he started a lifelong friendship with Ruskin Spear, his fellow RA, and did well enough to go on to Goldsmiths' College at New Cross, in south London. The art school there was then under Clive Gardiner, "perhaps the best head of an art school I have known", Weight reckons. Keenly interested already both in composition and the application of paint (admiring in this respect, above all, Rubens), he tackled half a dozen large canvases — two are in the RA show — which laid the foundations of his

remarkably consistent work. To this day he still does a preliminary oil sketch, then squares it up for transfer to the final canvas. Thereafter he made his own way, teaching part-time at Beckenham School of Art, and selling adequately on the art market. He became a war artist only in 1945, after two years of menial tasks in the Royal Armoured Corps, spending a year in Italy, and a year in Greece, at that time rent by civil war. Fascinating experience though that was, Weight's work remained rooted in London and its environs.

In 1947 he joined the staff of the Royal College of Art, at a low ebb then but soon brilliantly re-energized by that inspired bully Robin Darwin, who in 1957 asked him to become Professor of Painting.

Had he, one wondered, enjoyed presiding first over student responses to the New York-based revival of abstraction, then over the brilliant Hockney generation? "I felt the job was not so much to teach, except in one or two exceptional cases, as to create an atmosphere in which people could be stimulated to work and to bring things out of themselves, and to provide an environment geared to the production of pictures. But when you find a student to whom you feel you can give something, it is really rather stimulating. Things that have been fuzzy in the back of your mind you have to make clear. You can't however hope to give a large number of people very much."

Since 1973 Weight has been his own master, to the benefit of his own output. Now 73, he is an immensely friendly, relaxed yet erudite, slightly pear-shaped man who lives with a woman friend — he has never married — at Wandsworth. It is at first surprising that his own work, often sumptuously painted, should be marked by an

anecdotal vein ranging from gently macabre fantasy to real anguish (with overtones of Munch, whom he admires).

What lay behind all that? Hard to say, he responds: "One is never after the same thing — one would be a pretty dull dog if one was... I approach things in different moods — my paintings are all about moods."

"I'm normally a fairly placid person, and I like to be stimulated — as, for example, by going up in a plane, which makes me feel scared and the blood go around faster. I like to paint pictures in which the visual world is very much as in ordinary life, but with something a little more exciting, a little more than one normally sees. Fundamentally, I am tremendously interested in people and in the human predicament. I sometimes say 'I am going to paint this landscape without figures', but I very rarely do so. Figures not only dictate the mood, but provide points of emphasis. Dickens once said that he invented characters and they ran away with him. I find that in my pictures."

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Roger Berthoud

John Russell Taylor

Concerts

Bernard d'Ascoli

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Considering what the requirements of piano playing, let alone virtuosity, are, the achievement of Bernard d'Ascoli, who was deprived of sight at the age of three, is remarkable. It demands confidence of an exceptional kind to step out on to the platform of the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Monday and begin with the fifteenth of Messiaen's *Regards sur l'Enfant Jésus*. Yet his fluency in this still difficult music is such that he was entirely justified, and I should one day like to hear the entire cycle from him.

Such an interpretation must involve for Mr d'Ascoli, more than for most, an intense interior realization of the music and this paid special dividends in terms of calmly balanced proportions and beautifully smooth tonal gradation. In Ravel's *Valses Nobles et Sentimentales*, for example, there was a great range of delicate pianissimo, and of delicate interpretative perceptions also. This performance scarcely realized the maximum rhythmic zest that can be drawn from these outwardly suave waltzes, but so refined a musical concept was rewarded enough in that it showed some of Ravel's pages in an unfamiliar light. And there was no lack of

essential forward movement.

Frach's *Prelude*, Choral and Fugue is a more heavily weighted piece, not least in its thicker, less innately graceful textures. The same uncommon tonal control was apparent in the *Prelude*, and one particularly noted a feature common to all Mr d'Ascoli's readings here, as on previous occasions, namely that the music's contours seemed, as it were, more than usually rounded. Yet a highly cultivated sense of line was evident also, not only in the Fugue but in locating the voices hidden in the central Choral's spread chords. As to the Fugue, resolute separation of lines and richness of tone augured well for what was to follow.

Liszt's *Sonata* is in more than one sense a more heavily weighted undertaking, and the character of its writing is that, frankly, more risks were involved for Mr d'Ascoli. Wrong notes were apparent in passages involving quick, wide leaps, yet considering the uncompromising force of the interpretation they were well indeed. That force was backed by the strong but finely controlled lyrical impulse which flowed through what is, in effect, this work's slow movement. The fugato was amazingly deft, even if a few fancies were rushed later. And the final climax involved no evasions at all.

Max Harrison

Weinberg/Wallfisch

St John's/Radio 3

Before the Wallfisch-Weinberg Trio came together in 1960, the BBC's lunch-hour recital in St John's on Monday, the spotlight was focused in turn on Raphael Wallfisch's cello and Anton Weinberg's clarinet. Both were quite outstanding. Sometimes in pursuit of equally fine tapering the cellist was inclined to let his lovely tone wilt at phrase-ends instead of carrying through.

Joan Chissell

the quite extraordinary potency of emotion conveyed with the utmost subtlety and delicacy of colouring and dynamic nuance. It can be heard again next Sunday at 1 pm on Radio 3.

Finally, Brahms's autumnal Trio, phrased and balanced with an affecting intimacy and tenderness. Again Mr Weinberg's breath control was quite outstanding. Sometimes in pursuit of equally fine tapering the cellist was inclined to let his lovely tone wilt at phrase-ends instead of carrying through.

Joan Chissell

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# Hardening up the soft centre

Keith Middlemas suggests an agenda for the SDP think tank

Those who would put themselves in the driving seat owe us a little more explanation. After all the speculation on the challenges posed by the SDP, it is time to ask about the challenge to the SDP. However attractive the new party may seem, there is too much coyness, ambiguity and sheer disingenuousness not to wonder whether they can live up to their awesome responsibilities.

Of course they have committees at work, staffed by expert and earnest followers, rather like the gifted teams that Lloyd George gathered around him in the 1920s. As of this week, they also have a new "think tank" — the Tavney Society — to justify their talk of breaking the mould. Their policy documents will probably read well even in 40 years time, but will they become SDP — let alone Alliance — policy for the 1984 election?

The SDP reaches a broad agreement across the centre, on stable economic and social policy, relying on the support of the CBI, sections of the City and many trades unionists, then their programme will indeed be popular. It would, however, be based on nostalgia for the prosperous 1950s and early 1960s when the consensus flowered — but in conditions which are now, except in fantasy, beyond recovery. The real mould to break is that composed of archaic attitudes and practices, unreal habits of mind, rigidity or anachronistic patterns of work, education or investment, against which both Conservative and Labour parties have rallied since the mid-1960s, very largely without success. Apart from hints about wages policy, however, they do not seem to be promising to do the same things, only better. This is the real mould to break: the first conception sketched here is not a mould at all but a process of competitive reaction to successive failures to do the job properly, or at all.

Parts of this mould date back to much earlier stages of the industrial

revolution. (Dr Martin Wiener locates in the 1850s the origin of contemptuous patrician attitudes to industry). Others, such as how to ensure in war a high level of voluntary dedication and sacrifice to the public good, are so intractable that they have defeated all modern democracies.

But one could list a limited number of medium-term strategic problems, within the scope of government but beyond day-to-day management, for which an Alliance government, backed by the sort of public expectations which alone could explain a victory in 1983 or 1984, might at least be prepared.

First, employment — that is, wages, jobs and the nature of work. The inflationary dangers of full employment in conditions of trade union monopoly and employer

complaisance are now well understood. All the discredited attempts at restraint or appeasement of trade unions. Devoevans in Place of

the 1971 Act, the Social Contract, successive wages policies, down to and including Mr Tebbit's amendments to trade union law — can be seen as part of a pendulum which began to swing in the early 1960s, when trades unions first became identified in the public mind as the sole scapegoat for inflation and shop-floor militancy.

The SDP seems committed to a wages policy, in contrast to the present government whose wages policy is mainly real wage control under several different names, or a Labour opposition whose wages policy — which may or may not be

agreed with the TUC — is hidden under veils of ambiguity in little-read documents. Do the SDP think they can carry it out without an agreement with the TUC and CBI? Should they not at least be talking about the political implications? If they are not prepared to take this jump, do they imagine that manufacturing industry could ever again carry the old 1950s ratio of jobs, wages and productivity?

Are the SDP going to admit that a percentage of the 3 million unemployed form part of a virtuous cycle? Would they keep up pressure on so far sheltered sectors of public industry and services — or would preservation of jobs be traded for a wages policy?

Would the SDP try to recover the post-war informal system, welcome the CBI and TUC back into intimate relationship with government, and by making bargains once again restore to both a power which has now fragmented lower down even than union branch and plant level? How would it make these institutions' power legitimate to those who do not benefit from their protection, such as the self-employed and the small business-man?

What of that great black hole, the nationalised industries, collectively swallowing up manpower, management and money? There is SDP talk of a national holding company, like an up-dated National Enterprise Board, both to ensure financial discipline and absorb the Treasury of its impossible task of being "in the risk business". But no government is likely to give up everything to a private investor always short of opportunity without government guarantee? Might they innovate by grouping all these concerns (now responsible to half a dozen minis-

ters) in one collective, representing the infrastructure level of the mixed economy?

Questions of the economy and institutions ultimately end up at the centre of government. The SDP might well ask where the centre is. Much of our post-war history suggests that, rather than clear direction, the centre gave out only a hollow boom, like the Malabar caves. In their discussions of the constitution, are pluralism and corporatism seen as alternatives, one good (democratic and consensual) the other bad (corrupt bargains and cosy inefficiency), or as sides of the same coin of an outworn system in which cabinets are condemned to perpetual horse trading between Treasury and spending departments over scarce resources? Either way, it may be that the very language that we use to describe what goes on is dead. Could the SDP create another? Could all their bold promises be carried out by agreement? Political language is the worst of all languages: it is the language of conflict; constitutions in ancient states are not remodelled by consent.

This mould was already under attack at least 10 or 15 years before the SDP was born. Its rigidity was a lot of lack of foresight during the uniquely favourable circumstances of the post-war era, to evasion of hard questions by both Labour and Tory governments, and false assumptions by industrial, financial and labour institutions. Most of these have done penance since Opec, a legitimate fear is that the SDP looks back longingly to this very era.

Voters will listen to anyone who promises to revive the mixed economy and restore the lost golden age of only 20 years ago. A party which does so everything that it will incur a terrible responsibility when promises go sour again.

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# The Palestinian lesson that Haig must learn

By Edward Mortimer

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, returns to Jerusalem today to resume his attempt to coax Egypt and Israel into agreement on a formula for Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, in conformity with the Camp David accord.

To anyone who has recently visited the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, this enterprise seems thoroughly unreal. The most salient feature of life in those areas today is the rapid extension of Israeli settlements. This is not primarily the work of private individuals or pressure groups such as Gush Emunim (the "Block of the Faithful").

Since the Likud government came to power in 1977 it has taken the initiative in planning, financing and carrying out the settlement activity, with the aim of securing not merely the Jordan Valley and the surrounding areas of Jerusalem as Israel's permanent territory (which was the objective of the previous government) but the West Bank — "Judea and Samaria" — as a whole. Many Israelis are now living in the West Bank not out of any ideological motive but simply because it is the cheapest place to get a flat.

A map posted for the edification of the foreign press at the Public Information Office in Jerusalem shows how the settlements are contained within bands of territory, coloured purple, which are deemed essential to Israel's security. They have been painted with a brush that only disconnected patches of white remain. These, presumably, are the areas where Palestinians are expected to exercise their "autonomy".

"Ah no," say Israel's negotiators. "The autonomy will be personal, not territorial." This concept baffles not only Palestinians but many Israelis, too. "We do not understand," I was told by Mr Shimon Peres, the opposition leader, "how the figures in a Chagall painting, detached from the territory in which they live." As long as they do not have authority over the Israeli settlers living among them, their right to run their own lives is bound to remain largely theoretical.

Nowhere is this more obvious than in Hebron, where 100 of the Israeli settlers now live in the heart of the Arab town. The houses next to them have been cleared of their Arab inhabitants and in some cases occupied by Israeli troops, who mount guard on the rooftops. Three months ago an Israeli settler was stabbed in the town, and after his Arab house was blown up, a third, welded shut and an elementary school taken over by troops, leaving 700 children without a classroom.

Feelings are not tender towards the settlers among the Arab population, and it is hard to imagine that Israel will entrust their security to an Arab police force. Indeed, the anti-terrorist measures are one of the subjects which Israel explicitly intends to retain among the powers of the military government. How, one wonders, can this be reconciled with the claim that the main advantage of autonomy for the Arabs will be the removal of Israeli troops from populated areas?

The fact is that the autonomy proposals are viewed with suspicion by the Arab population. Even Mr Mustapha Dodin, leader of the Hebron "Village



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League" regarded as an arch-collaborator by PLO supporters, told me "we don't care and are not so concerned" about autonomy, because it is "not clear and not understood by the people." When I asked him whether he would be willing to participate in elections for the proposed autonomous authority, he replied, "I don't think elections are possible at the present time, because terrorism is spreading its wings in the area."

Mr Dodin hardly looks the part of the interlocutor. He is an elderly man with a dispirited air, who sits in an overheated office with the collar of his overcoat turned up, and a Jeep-load of Israeli soldiers outside his door to vet all visitors. (He has also had his own armed bodyguard since his opposite number in Ramallah, Mr Yusuf al-Khatib, was murdered on November 17.)

Of course, such events enable the Israelis to claim that the PLO maintains its hold on the population only by terror. But that must be at best an oversimplification. Virtually all resistance movements in history have been prepared to use violence against those whom they regard as collaborators with the enemy, and the PLO is no exception. But the balance of physical force in the occupied territories is overwhelmingly on Israel's side.

Supporters of the PLO are subject to constant harassment, imprisonment or torture (so at least the population unanimously believes, which is what matters) during interrogation, expulsion from the country, the demolition of their family's house, and in the case of the mayors of Nablus and Ramallah, the year before last — mutilation by car-bomb.

Even the moderate Mayor of Gaza, Mr Rashad al-Shawa, has just risked PLO wrath by stating publicly on Israeli radio that the PLO is only part, not the whole, of the Palestinian people, is not allowed to leave the Gaza Strip because of his refusal to cooperate with the Israeli authorities, and his daughter, who lives in London, is at present marooned in Gaza having been refused permission to leave the country after a visit to her parents.

\* This Year in Jerusalem, by Kenneth B. G. Gertman, London & Todd, £5.95.

Washington. — One hundred years ago this month Oscar Wilde sailed into New York to begin what appeared one of the more improbable lecture tours of America ever undertaken by an English author. It proved one of the most successful, the climax coming when he addressed the rude miners of Leadville, Colorado, 10,000 feet up in the Rockies on "The ethics of art" — a subject on which it is unlikely he would have been booked to lecture to any English or Welsh miners of the time.

There was a warm-up act: two men charged with murder were tried on the same stage at 8pm, convicted, and there and then executed before the crowded audience. We took more seriously the notice he had seen on the piano in the saloon next door: "Don't shoot the pianist!"

He read passages from the autobiography of Benvenuto Cellini. "They seemed much delighted," he said, "and asked why, if Cellini was so great, Wilde had not brought him along. When he explained that Cellini had been dead for some time, the miners called out: 'Who shot him?' After the lecture, they invited Wilde to supper. For this he had to descend a mine in a rickety bucket in which it was impossible to be graceful."

In the heart of the mountain, he had his supper, "the first course being whisky, the second whisky, the third whisky." He found the miners "very charming," and they called him a "bully boy with no glass eye". He added that this was a greater compliment to him than any Parisian critic. Anyone who has been to that bleak town today can only look around its main street and wonder at that evening 100 years ago.

There may have been much to smile at, but Wilde was not supercilious, as he was not supercilious about anything on the tour. He did not ask America to imitate England, and in that he could still teach many visitors. He may have harassed his New

## When Oscar Wilde wowed the Leadville miners



Oscar Wilde: the man they asked to supper

York agent to have made for him, and sent to him on tour, cloaks of even deeper velvets and gaudier silk linings, but he did not talk down to his audiences. He made a genuine endeavour in those raw communities of frontiersmen willing to pay to hear about Benvenuto Cellini.

Most British observation of America has been by what Richard Cobden called "members of the book-writing class", principally because they have been able to make money by writing about it. But from the beginning they discovered they may make even more money in America on the lecture circuits. They still come. In these winter months I watch them pass like migrating birds through Washington and their never-changing course.

G. K. Chesterton observed of the lecture tour in 1922: "Some say that people come to hear him — in which case it seems rather a pity that he could disturb and distress their minds with a lecture. He might merely exhibit himself on a stand or platform, or be exhibited like a monster in a menagerie. The circus elephant is not expected to make a speech."

But they still come as lions, actual or stuffed. Wyndham Lewis observed in 1940 that the whole game of the lecture tour was being ruined by the agents. "Lions of very dubious quality have, for a long time, been passed off as lions, unsuited audiences. Subsequently the latter discover they have been fooled. The average figures at BPC have quit since the group was taken over last year by the controversial Maxwell, but this is by no means entirely attributed to personality clashes.

Henry Fairlie

1852/53: "I shall carry away near £1,000 from here alone. . . . I am 'overworked', overdone, oversupplied, over-visited, and everything has been going well in a mercurial point of view."

It is not surprising that with such honesty he enjoyed both himself and America immensely. It was not only that, as he wrote from New York: "I have been actually in love for three days with a pretty wild girl of 19", and that in Philadelphia, "where his wife was a young Quakeress at the lecture last night, listening about Fielding. Lord, how pretty she was." This English gentleman of 42 — denounced as a snob by the American press before he arrived — was captivated equally by America itself.

About the same time, Dickens was fuming at America. So it seems, at any rate, from his words. But this is why it is worth going beyond the published observations to the diaries and letters written while they were here.

Dickens was at first excited and impressed, as one would have expected him to be. But then his attitude changed — because his audiences began to complain that he was taking their money only to complain about American breaches of the copyright law. (He translated this into the assertion that there was no freedom of speech in America.) He then got influenza in New York and was confined to a hotel.

Dickens had at first written home, "I can give

you no conception of my welcome here. There never was a king or emperor upon the earth, so cheered and followed by crowds." Now he complained, "If I turn into the street, I am followed by a multitude. If I stay at home, the house becomes, with callers, a fair. There is a warping of the air, I have been visited by lecturers build their impressions, which they then publish, on one irritating moment of inconvenience or single act of discourtesy."

Nearer to our own time, T. H. White was clear about his motives. "I am making the trip to distract the private unhappiness of old age," he wrote in his wonderful diary before he left, "rather like knocking your head against the wall when you have a toothache." He predicted that the tour might kill him and, indeed, he died on the liner in his way home. But in between, with Julie Andrews, sister as his companion, he had a ball. His diary is the last enthusiastic account of an American tour.

Conan Doyle table-rapped his way round the country at spiritualist seances; Goldsworthy Lowes Dickinson tried to teach "the songs of the nightingale" to the children of the poor in a school where he was blown up, a third, welded shut and an elementary school taken over by troops, leaving 700 children without a classroom.

The diaries and letters of the English visitors, covering a good century and a half, are usually much more revealing than their published accounts. In their hotel rooms, or the homes of their nervous and fussing hostesses, they wrote of America as they saw it. When they got back home, they wrote of a mythologized America, favourably or unfavourably. There is a lesson here for America: that which is said, but which is not actually enjoyed it — not what they think they have to think it is.

## Another farewell to Queen Anne's

The defection of executives from millionaire publisher Robert Maxwell's British Printing Corporation appears to be accelerating. The latest to quit the group is Alan Smith, who was responsible in the past decade for transforming the Queen Anne's Press from somnolence to one of the country's leading sport and entertainment publishers with a string of best-sellers that stretches from Rothman's Football Year Book to Terry Wogan's Banjaxed.

Smith has been signed by Collins to create his own list on similar lines amid persisting rumours in the publishing world that leading authors and key staff from Queen Anne's will follow him. Although reluctant to discuss the rumours, Smith confirmed that the new imprint, which does not yet have a name, will specialize in those areas in which he has been previously successful. He is being joined at Collins by another ex-BPC director, Carol O'Brien, who has been appointed editorial director of the expanding Collins Harvill list. Yet another ex-BPC director, Anthony Cheetham, former head of Macdonald-Futura, has just announced the establishment of his own independent imprint with heavy financial backing from Hongkong.

It is estimated that about three quarters of the top publishing

figures at BPC have quit since the group was taken over last year by the controversial Maxwell, but this is by no means entirely attributed to personality clashes.

Penalty clause?

Gerald Murphy, the London architect, has been selected to design the sanctuary podium and a host of other facilities at Wembley Stadium for Pope John Paul II's open air mass on May 29 — and already he is complaining of sleepless nights.

Murphy, a Catholic, who is a partner in the Highgate firm of Gerald Murphy Burles Newton, tells me time is not on his side, for the previous Saturday has been reserved for the FA Cup Final and then there is the possibility of a replay on the following Thursday. "At its worst we face the possibility of 36 hours in which to erect everything, of which 24 would be in darkness," he said yesterday. Let's say I am quietly confident, but I have to be. A meeting he will have with the Greater London Council and the police tomorrow will determine the numbers Murphy has to cater for — but a congregation of 200,000 inside and outside the stadium is predicted, including more than 2,500 clergy to celebrate Mass. The cost depends on the agreed number.

Murphy, an unmarried man of 50 who has designed a range of buildings including churches and schools in the south of England and branches of the Allied Irish Banks, has been selected by

## THE TIMES DIARY

For the first time in history, Crufts Dog Show, the world's prestige canine competition, is to be staged over three days.

The eighty-sixth show, which will be held at Earls Court on February 12, 13 and 14, includes a new event — an international obedience competition on Sunday.

If the number of entries per breed is anything to go by, the most fashionable dogs in Britain at the moment as far as the experts are concerned are Afghan Hounds, Irish Setters, Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Great Danes, Old English Sheepdogs, English Setters, Whippets and Dobermans.

At the other end of the scale there are 236 dogs represented in 25 different breeds which have not yet qualified for separate classes.

Among the few breeds represented by only one entry are a Glen of Imaal Terrier, a Belgian Shepherd Dog (Laekenois) imported from Holland, a Portuguese Water Dog, and a Japanese Akita imported from Canada.

The total number of dogs entered this year, 9,844, which is slightly up on last year's figure of 9,763, Richard Bayliss, a member of Crufts's Show Committee, said over lunch yesterday that "in spite of the recession pedigree dogdom is absolutely flying."

Fleet Street detection. But last week she arrived at an unexpected guest at a Hasidic wedding at Brent town hall in London. She is to play the part of Yentl in a film of that name, based on a story by Isaac Bashevis Singer of a girl in a Polish ghetto who becomes so enchanted by the Talmud that she masquerades as a man in order to study at a seminary. Much of the film will be shot on location in Eastern Europe, but the interiors are being filmed in London and La Strainand has been waiting no time while waiting for rehearsals to begin.

Definitely dressed for the wedding in a high-necked dress with hat and boots to match, she quickly made her self at home

among the ladies — the sexes at such affairs being segregated — and showed particular interest in one of her neighbours who has conceived a biblical-sized family of 16 children.

The film is being scripted by the English playwright Jack Rosenthal (best known for *Barmy Army*) who tells me he is working closely with her and relying heavily on Miss Streisand's research and her extensive private archives on Jewish affairs.

While Yentl gets into a variety of sexual scrapes — how to pass off as a fellow in the marital bed requires a measure of ingenuity — those involved in the film emphasize that its essence is the joy of learning. Miss Streisand, 39, who has experienced a religious reawakening in recent years, is entering into the part with academic intensity.

Sun Life

MI sees Mrs Thatcher's policies are beginning to bite...



3 MILLION TOBACCO

oration, has been in preparation for the past 15 years. The Sun Yat-Sen story will explore Sun's many revolutionary attempts to overthrow the Manchu Dynasty and his romantic involvement with Soong Ching-ling, one of the three beautiful and legendary Soong sisters, who died in Peking only a few months ago.

Some of the most exciting sequences of the film will take place in London where Sun was kidnapped by agents of the Manchu Government, held captive in Portland Place, and just before he was smuggled out of Britain into China, torture and certain death.

## Kingmaker

The late Mikhail Suslov, the veteran Soviet ideologue, was a man of unbending orthodoxy whose schoolmasterly manner concealed a ruthlessness and a fashionable puritanism that made him the most feared and influential man in the country.

He was the only man with the authority to swing off during the interminable party speeches and rustle ostentatiously through his papers or whisper asides to Brezhnev. And when the honeyed praise for Brezhnev at the last party congress became too cloying even for Soviet sycophants it was Suslov who ordered the speakers to cut it out.

Alone among the politburo he obeyed the traffic laws, and while others roared down Moscow's streets at 120 kph his black chauffeur-driven limousine could be seen creeping along at 60 kph — the city speed limit. When a politburo colleague, a Russian from Leningrad, gave a riotous wedding for his daughter during which some priceless Tzarist crockery got smashed, it was Suslov who delivered the sharp rebuke.

He rarely smiled and refused to shake hands with such ideologically errant figures as Yugoslav ambassadors. Even Brezhnev stood in awe of the kingmaker. At a Bonn banquet in 1978 when asked by his German hosts if he had any further toasts to propose, Brezhnev replied: "Yes — to Suslov."

Michael Horsnell

If the British maths, how is it people who new school exam in the whom maths led boredom and can so effortless winning trouble on or eleven to a complex odds, ar of any eight dr matches in the tv eye? It is a thought the despair and every maths test land.

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## BRITAIN'S ECONOMIC LEGACY

Not many of Britain's now over three million unemployed will have read the recent gush of economic optimism from the Treasury. Those who have should remain pessimistic about their personal chances of getting a job in the next couple of years. The Treasury has its own reasons for adding a little gloom to its customary glum prognostications. It does not want Tory "wets" attending Thursday's pre-budget Cabinet to seize upon the unemployment figures as a justification for major reflation — nor does it want them to claim the credit for such reflation as may be proposed on March 9.

Our economic prospects have not suddenly been transformed into sunshine. But some signs are encouraging. A stunning positive balance of £1/2 billion in December's trade figures suggests a record surplus for 1981 as a whole. The corporate sector has moved back into surplus and consumer spending is rising again, supporting the view that the recession did bottom out last summer. Economic growth this year is now likely to exceed the Treasury's one per cent forecast — hardly grounds for euphoria, but at least promising more buoyant tax revenues. Most important for the coming budget, the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement (PSBR) seems on course for its target of £10/4 billion and next year could be below £9 billion. The money supply is still astray, but is apparently no longer the touchstone of national economic virtue.

The Cabinet on Thursday will not of course learn, discuss or determine the precise composition of the budget. That specific knowledge, give or take a leak or two, remains privy to the Chancellor, the Prime Minister, and their closest advisers, as it should where tax-sensitive proposals are concerned. But the major part of the budget is

not of that kind and the traditional ritual of budget secrecy is excessive. The factors and constraints which shape the budget and the range of options open to the Chancellor are apparent to most informed commentators. He does not produce magic from his box, but his own judgment on a balance of numbers which are broadly known. It is right that ministers, who share the political consequences of the Chancellor's judgment, should be more involved in the debate that frames his view. The Treasury, on past evidence, has no monopoly of wisdom and might even benefit from extending this process of dialogue further into Parliament and the public.

The main question facing ministers will concern the extent of reflation. With £2 billion comfortably available without loosening the fiscal stance, the "wets" may be tempted to settle for that as at least representing progress in the right direction, while the hawks rest content that nothing excessive has been given away. The Tory party could then unite behind the growing consensus for a modest package containing a substantial cut in the national insurance surcharge to assist industry, and a small cut in direct taxation which would take Mrs Thatcher towards the lower tax burdens which she promised but has not delivered. Such a cautious outcome would not be foolish economically or politically. The main plank in the Government's programme remains its crusade against inflation. The Treasury's forecasts point to single figure inflation in about a year's time, but then they have done that every year since Mrs Thatcher came to office. The expected outcome from this pay round of around 9 per cent is a quite high platform from which to move into pre-election laxity.

Therefore a Government which relies on market forces, which means recession, to restrain wages and prices must be cautious about expanding economic activity if it wishes to retain credibility for its anti-inflation policies.

After making every allowance for economic principle and political prudence, the nagging doubt remains that the present economic reality in Britain simply does not make sense. With three million out of work, output at below the level of 1974, large chunks of our industry disappearing, our cities crumbling, services deteriorating, the education and training of our children being hacked away, and the financial costs of recession actually rising government expenditure and interest rates, it is not clear that the kind of budget which is being previewed and indeed heralded as a new dawn is appropriate to the daunting task which faces our rulers. It is devastatingly clear that Britain needs massive investment, private and public, to restore its competitive strength. It needs imagination and international co-operation in reducing interest rates and stabilising currencies throughout Europe and North America.

The Europeans are valiantly trying to create a pool of lower interest rates to protect their nascent recovery from another surge of American interest rates. But what will they do when it comes, as it seems possible? This is the economic question which overhangs the petty cash of Sir Geoffrey's Budget. There are answers; we need not be flotsam on the high seas. Perhaps some Ministers will lift Thursday's Cabinet discussion beyond the entrails of the monetary aggregates towards a vision of what kind of Britain will be bequeathed not only to the next government, which may be Mrs Thatcher's, but also the next generation.

## THE BUDGETARY GRIND IN BRUSSELS

This week's failure in Brussels to reach agreement on agricultural and budgetary reform was only the latest of a series of inconclusive meetings. Discussion of these important questions has moved forward very slowly since it proved impossible to reach an overall settlement at the summit in London in November. But this latest setback was more serious because the differences among the Ten are now likely to split over into other Community business. It is at this time that negotiations should begin on the politically sensitive issue of prices for the next agricultural year; and Lord Carrington has talked of refusing to reach agreement on them, or on other issues, until the budget question is settled. So the stakes have been raised and so, probably, will the political temperature.

It is deplorable that the Community should conduct its affairs in this way. There has been a commitment since May 1980 to carry out a thorough investigation of the related issues of agricultural spending and budget contributions, with a view to avoiding a repetition of the situation in which Britain found itself, of being about to become the main net contributor while being one of the less prosperous members. Negotiations were to begin last summer and be concluded by the end of the year. Yet here is the issue dragging on into this

year, taking up time and effort which should be directed to other areas of policy, and presenting a most damaging image of the Community both to the outside world and to the peoples of the member countries. There is now unlikely to be a settlement before the next summit, in Brussels in March.

Large sums of money are involved, and deeply entrenched national interests. Britain suffers from the present workings of the Community because, by virtue of having a small agricultural sector, it receives little from the common agricultural policy; and because so much less is spent in other areas of Community activity. But other countries have done very well indeed out of the present arrangements, including some of the richest ones, and they are extremely reluctant to see a reduction of their gains. So it is an uphill struggle for Britain, even though the basic justice of its case was recognized in the 1980 settlement.

So far there has been provisional agreement on a number of points which should eventually form part of a new settlement. It has been agreed, for instance, that in future Community spending on agriculture should increase more slowly than the resources available to the Community;

which should mean a gradual reduction in the predominance of agriculture. It has been agreed that more should be done to help Mediterranean farmers. Some progress has also been made on another sensitive issue, the surplus of dairy products: it is likely that a final settlement will include measures to curb production, once the differences over the treatment of small farmers have been resolved.

But the commitments will only be expressed in general terms, and at best there will only be a slow change in the Community's spending priorities. So it is right that Britain should hold out for a satisfactory settlement on the most sensitive issue of all, that of budget contributions, because if it does not it could find itself bearing much of the cost of continued failure to curb agricultural spending. In the proposals that have been made so far, Britain has been offered a reduction in its contributions, but only for a certain number of years, and on condition that the rebate diminishes each year — the assumption being that its difficulties will be over by the end of the period. Britain needs better terms than that. It has had undertakings before that the Community would reduce its agricultural spending. They cannot be taken on trust.

## BEATEN BY NUMBERS

If the British are so bad at maths, how is it that young people who never passed a school exam in the subject, for whom maths lessons were a boredom and a humiliation, can so effortlessly work out a winning treble at seven to four on or eleven to eight against, or a Yankee at even more complex odds, and find a perm of any eight draws from 17 matches in the twinkling of an eye? It is a thought which must be the despair and the hope of every maths teacher in the land.

It cannot be made the basis of any complacent idea that skill blossoms as and when it is needed regardless of pedagogic failure. The number of people who are inconvenienced, shamed, cheated and held back in their careers by virtual illiteracy where numbers are concerned is far greater than the number who are baffled by inability to solve the algebra of written words. A survey done as a supplement to the Cockcroft report, published yesterday, indicated that nearly one in three of adults cannot divide 65 by 5, and about half cannot understand a railway timetable. It is difficult to overestimate the obstacles that all this must present to social, economic and even political communi-

cations (a substantial majority of us suppose that a fall in the rate of inflation means a drop in prices: so much for a thousand party political broadcasts).

The Cockcroft report dismantles some myths and suggests practical measures, while warning that no solution can take effect rapidly. A vicious circle prevents it: our inadequately trained teachers nurture so few mathematicians of ability that too few remain to teach the next generation, once more lucrative occupations have taken their pick. It is a fact not far short of grotesque that one fifth of all maths teaching in maintained secondary schools is in the hands of teachers with no qualifications in maths. If the teacher is scared of the subject, it is no wonder the pupils learn to be. The situation fully justifies the financial incentives to trainees and teachers in the subject that the report calls for, and expanded in-service aid for the poorly-qualified teachers whom we will have to depend on for many years yet.

One reason why maths is so especially difficult to teach is that children's aptitudes do seem to vary exceptionally widely in this subject, regardless of the influence of earlier

teaching (to beg a question). Some have a better grasp of mathematical concepts when they enter secondary school than classmates will attain by the time they leave. The problem of ensuring that highfliers are not held back and plodders not discouraged is at its most acute.

This suggests that there are special dangers for maths in official plans to merge the O-level and CSE exams. But both exams, and teaching at every level, are already so over-inflated by the requirements of the next stages of education that the merger should be welcomed as an opportunity for improvement. The traditionalists are right when they claim that maths today is letting down its less able pupils. But what the latter need is not drilling in the purely mechanical arithmetical skills that a haberdasher's assistant in the 1930s might have found useful when measuring out eighteen yards of worsted at two-and-tuppence-a-penny a yard. They are already bombarded with too many abstract figures and concepts. The true art of maths teaching with such pupils is to persuade them that if they can take troubles, yankees and permutations in their stride, they have nothing to fear from a decimal point.

## Keeping dialogue with Moscow

From Mr Simon May

Sir, It is extraordinary that after all these years Dr Kissinger (articles, January 22 and 23) should still reject dialogue with Moscow during periods of East-West crisis on the ground that it enables the Soviets to "absorb themselves of their aggressions". It is common sense, though Dr Kissinger berates it, for two adversaries capable of destroying the world many times over to maintain their dialogue at the highest levels when the danger to peace is greatest. What, therefore, should be at issue is not the principle of dialogue with the Soviets but the strategy with which the West faces them at the moment. Kissinger's power, which we can orchestrate to back it and the unity with which we present it.

Of course, it is both damaging to Western interests and non-sensical if Soviet aggression makes our diplomacy expedient. Moscow eager and conciliatory while periods of relative calm make it confrontational and hedged with conditions. This would be as much a sign of weakness as the abandonment of dialogue which Dr Kissinger advocates. The Polish Church at least appears to believe that this is so.

Yours sincerely,  
SIMON MAY,  
68 Louth Road, SW13  
January 25

## Mapping for the future

From Major-General R. C. A. Edge

Sir, Your report today ("Threat to Ordnance Survey", January 20) and admirable leading article on this subject encourage me, as former Director General of the Ordnance Survey, to write and express my strong support.

The object of the Ordnance Survey is not to make a profit but to provide an essential service to the nation. Like other comparable services, eg, defence, police, national health, its benefits are virtually impossible to quantify in any satisfactory manner, but one knows through bitter experience the true cost of allowing the national survey to fall into disrepair as it did between the wars.

The Ordnance Survey performs a function in our national life akin to that of the lubricant in a complicated machine: its cost is very small but the cost of neglecting it is likely to be very high indeed.

For these reasons the policy of the present Government of putting the accent on profitability seems to me to be misconceived as far as the Ordnance Survey is concerned. It is true that the statement of the Secretary of State for the Environment on July 22, 1981, gives the assurance that "The trading fund proposals will not affect the OS's primary function as a national mapping agency", but it also claims as an advantage that the department's "performance can be judged in a commercial framework". In such a framework I think it inevitable that profitability must be the main consideration.

It will be a great pity if the Government's preoccupation with avoiding a "loss" in the subsidy leads ultimately to serious harm to the machine, particularly now that, after half a century of effort, its smooth running is once more safeguarded by the provision of good surveys.

Yours faithfully,  
R. C. A. EDGE  
Greenway House,  
North Curry,  
Taunton.

## Pay award

From Mr Godfrey Eland

Sir, I find it difficult to comprehend your description of a 7 per cent pay award to local authority manual workers as "lamentable" (leading article, January 22) when their average weekly pay is less than that earned by a machine minder on a Sunday newspaper for one shift.

There are certainly some glass houses in Fleet Street! Yours faithfully,  
GODFREY ELAND,  
26 Halcyn Way,  
Burton upon Trent,  
Staffordshire.  
January 22.

## Covenanting

From the Rev Canon George Austin

Sir, The Chairman of the Churches' Council on Covenanting complains (January 12) of "perplexity" when Bishop Alan Clark writes (January 4) of "selective ordination" and "ordination by proxy" but his own use of the word "ordination" can only add to the growing confusion about the nature of the reconciliation of ministries in the Covenanting process.

Bishop Woolcombe states that it "does not involve the ordination of anyone who has already been ordained", but "does include the episcopal ordination of those who have not been ordained". But ordained to what? The Presbyterian and Independent origins of the United Reformed Church show a long and honourable tradition of emphasising the priesthood of all believers and of rejecting the Anglican tradition of an ordained priesthood. Their ministers are ordained and set apart for a specific ministry within their Church which is quite clearly and deliberately not the priesthood. To recognize this is not to denigrate the reality of those ministries but rather to respect

## British fishing industry's fears

From Mr D. N. Parkes

Sir, The reports concerning the state of modern freezer trawlers (January 18 and 19), prompted me to write as one member of the delegation of trawler owners that met the Minister of State for Agriculture and Fisheries on January 18.

The fishing industry is in a unique position in these times of recession in that apart from suffering from all the ills of unit costs rising much faster than unit prices during the last three years, its fishing opportunities are the subject of both Government and EEC control from London and Brussels. The industry is prevented from going out and catching the species the market requires in such quantities and in whatever season it desires by a quota and sometimes unreasonable rigid government control. For example, what remains of our once great freezer trawler fleet cannot plan its 1982 activity, since although we are at present in the middle of the winter trawler quota, no freezer trawler quota has been allocated by ministers for either mackerel or herring for the 1982 year.

Similarly, no specific north Norwegian cod quota has been allocated by Brussels to the UK and the Canadian cod quota of 10,000 tonnes, out of a total of 14,500 tonnes, has been allocated to the UK is so hopelessly inadequate in relation to the UK's historic claims to distant water cod quotas, as compared with France and Germany, that it verges upon the impossible.

In addition, the slow pace at which our ministry often works actively prevents our industry prosecuting various fisheries at the most opportune time and consequently we often find ourselves at a competitive disadvantage to our colleagues in other member states of the EEC.

## Blacking the press

From Mr Claud Morris

Sir, It is the old story, the battle to print. All of us in the inkly art have our memories. Mine is that yesterday's enemies of the right to print become tomorrow's friends. Sometimes vice versa. Voice, 20 years ago, miners of the Dulais Valley blacked us from village newspapers' shops because we reported workers alleged to be smuggling cigarettes into the pits. Two years later the Coal Board removed all advertising from my papers because we battled against the closures of those self-same pits.

Commercial, professional and racial groups also have their politicians who seek to black. Ten years ago Swansea traders removed advertising from two of my papers because they didn't care too much for the content of a couple of outside journals we were printing commercially. Here, too, although the content of those outside journals was as many light years away from us as the content of the Sun is from your good selves, we battled for and finally achieved a moral victory, although at some economic cost.

Attempts to strangle newspapers, in large or small ways, are always and it remains paradoxical that British trades unionists should be tempted to ban your paper from the trains because of an article, not printed by you, but by the Sun newspaper under the same group ownership, whilst Polish trades unionists in their embattled circumstances depend on papers like The Times to convey their case to the world.

## Energy for prosperity

From Professor H. W. Singer

Sir, Your editorial on Energy for prosperity (January 12) rightly emphasises the importance of negotiating an understanding with the Opec countries. It also contains what must be the key components of any such understanding. However, two important components seem to be missing.

The first is an agreement that the Opec countries will stop draining the resources of the poorer developing countries, thus lowering their import capacity and creating obstacles in the way of industrial country resources being made available. This will require Opec either to supply cheap oil at heavily reduced prices to these countries, as Venezuela and Mexico are already doing in the

Caribbean area, or else making automatic financial refunds. Such direct recycling would normally be preferable to indirect recycling and would reduce the load on the international monetary system.

2. In return, something will have to be offered to Opec. I think your editorial was not realistic in not containing any such concession to Opec. The concession which we should make is to offer Opec what they so dearly desire, i.e. inflation-proof investments for their surplus — granny bonds for Opec!

Yours faithfully,  
H. W. SINGER,  
The Institute of Development Studies,  
University of Sussex,  
Brighton,  
Sussex.

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## A Soviet view of civil defence

From Dr M. R. Dando

Sir, I am writing with regard to the letter by Mr Edward Leigh, Chairman of the National Council for Civil Defence, which appeared in your columns on January 21. In this letter, entitled "Educative task for CND," it was again suggested that the Soviet Union has a massive and very efficient civil defence system designed to operate in a nuclear war. I am aware of the American literature on which this viewpoint is based, and, apparently unlike many of its British advocates, I am also aware of the American criticisms of this view.

Therefore, whilst I was in the Soviet Union on a Quaker January 21. In this letter, entitled "Educative task for CND," it was again suggested that the Soviet Union has a massive and very efficient civil defence system designed to operate in a nuclear war. I am aware of the American literature on which this viewpoint is based, and, apparently unlike many of its British advocates, I am also aware of the American criticisms of this view.

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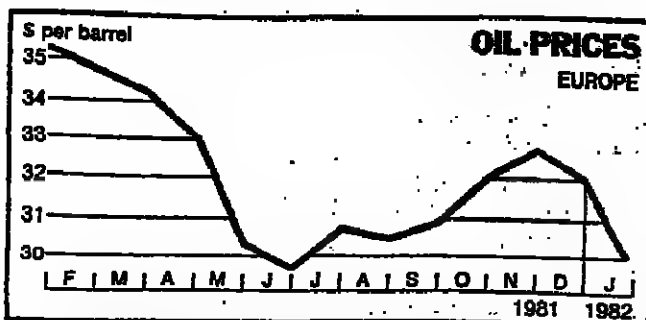






## BUSINESS NEWS

### Oil crisis builds up



A crisis is building up in the oil market, as our chart shows. Spot crude prices have fallen sharply in Europe since the beginning of the year, despite attempts by Opec at three meetings last autumn to stabilize them, and the trend is being followed in America. Soviet sales of crude oil have been higher than expected as the Soviet Union seeks foreign exchange to pay for grain and technology imports. But demand has also been weak despite the severe winter in northern Europe. West German consumption fell by almost 19 per cent last year.

### House deal 'concealed'

The was in which Lord Grade and Mr Jack Gill were granted similar options to buy their homes at cost from Associated Communications Corporation may have breached the companies act it was alleged in the High Court yesterday. During the Post Office pension fund's action to stop Mr Gill's golden handshake and in buying his house £100,000 lower than its market value, it was claimed that the options, granted in 1975, were never disclosed to shareholders, that Mr Gill's option was signed by Lord Grade and Lord Grade's option, granted three days earlier is thought to have been signed by Mr Hill. Mr Peter Millett QC, for the Post Office said there was evidence that Mr Gill's option was concealed from other ACC directors and the company's auditors. The case continues Friday.

### Fewer jobs in pubs

Employment in pubs and clubs has declined by 20,000, of 5 per cent in the past year as beer sales have plunged, the Brewers' Society told the Chancellor yesterday when warning that further excise duty increases in the Budget would threaten more sales declines and import additional jobs. The society's workforce has almost doubled to 268,000 in 1980, have been the worst hit, shedding nearly 8 per cent of employees. Taxation on beer had almost doubled since the Government entered office in 1979; it was pointed out by Mr Derek Palmer, Brewers' Society chairman and head of Bass. Beer production was down more than 5 per cent last year and sales are currently 8 per cent down with much bigger losses during the worst of the winter weather.

### Mining loss

Leading Australian mining group MIM Holdings, showed the impact that lower metal prices are having on its trading results when it reported a loss for the six months to December 31.

It incurred a loss of A\$4.5m (£2.64m) compared with a profit of \$78.5m for the previous corresponding period.

MM directors said that the main cause for the loss was lower metal prices combined with a reduced volume of copper sales compared with the same period of the previous year.

How three top businessmen spend their day. Page 15

What's in store for the hire purchase sector. Page 16

Change at the top at Imperial Group. Page 16

## Government overspends by £1,250m

By David Blake

Only eight weeks after the Chancellor announced revised spending plans for 1982-83, the Government has had to dig into the contingency reserve to find an extra £1,250m for spending programmes.

This will be shown by the detailed public spending plans published with the Budget. The money is expected to go on social security, housing and export credit guarantees.

At the same time, the Government has virtually finalized plans to increase its planned spending in 1983 by less than the expected rate of inflation. The plans may lead to new rows in the autumn as the Cabinet tries to hold total spending within limits.

The extra spending on programmes in the coming year, while it does not alter the public spending total, is bound to worry Treasury ministers seeking room for manoeuvre for tax cuts. The contingency reserve has now been whittled down to £2,500m and may be reduced even further by the time the White Paper on public spending is published on March 9.

After long, hard bargaining, the Government seems to have settled on only small increases in the amount of cash made available for public spending in 1983-4 and 1984-5. The White Paper will give all spending totals in cash terms, instead of trying to estimate the volume of spending, as in the past.

Total spending in 1982-3 will be £115,000m; in 1983-4 it is expected to be £128,500m, all in cash terms. That implies a rise of about 5½ per cent in 1983-4 and a further 5½ per cent in 1984-5.

The Government pledged itself last autumn to draw up plans based on the cost of public spending rising by 6 per cent in 1983-4 and 5 per cent in 1984-5. That would imply a slight squeeze in the volume of spending in the year beginning next April and about 14 per cent increase in 1984-5. But since those inflation figures were published, most private forecasters have suggested that prices will rise by more.

The much heralded privatisation programme of selling off government assets is not expected to bring much benefit to the government's finances. It is forecast to raise only £500m this year, mostly from selling shares in British National Oil Corporation, £600m in 1983-4 and £600m in 1984-5.

To try to avoid problems experienced in recent years, the Treasury has insisted on holding back large sums for future years to pay for programmes which crop up later. As a result, only £118,000m has actually been committed to specific spending programmes in 1983-4 and £124,000m in 1984-5. That leaves £4,000m for the contingency reserve for next year and £5,000m for 1984-5.

The White Paper will probably form part of a general attempt to show what the Government's economic policies would look like from 1984 onwards, after the next general election. There may also be an attempt to fit all the policies into one framework.

The White Paper is not expected at present to say what proportion of the country's total output will be used as government expenditure.

### GOVERNMENT SPENDING

	Cash in £000m	1981/82	1982/83	1983/84	1984/85
Planning total	107	118	128	138	148
Asset sales	0	0	0	0	0
Contingency reserve	0.3	2.5	4.0	5.0	6.0

Note: A minus sign (-) means that the government reserves money. No allowance is made for shortfalls in the above figures. The contingency reserve is used for unexpected expenditure.

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The biggest consignment of Japanese cars ever to arrive at a British port — 5,540 Datsuns worth £29m — is being unloaded at Southampton

## Japan to drop 67 trade curbs

From Peter Hazell, Tokyo, Jan 26

Japan is to eliminate or ease 67 non-tariff barriers which have impeded imports and led to friction between Japan and its Western industrialized trading partners.

Mr Shintaro Abe, Minister for Industry and International Trade, announced today that he will appoint a special ombudsman to look into the grievances of foreign businessmen who are confounded by Japan's complicated bureaucratic procedures.

The announcement was made today as EEC senior representatives met Japanese officials in Tokyo to ask Japan to increase the volume of its imports of manufactured goods and take other steps to reduce its long-sided surplus with Europe.

Officials said the Government will take steps next

week to eliminate or ease 67 non-tariff barriers which have impeded imports and led to friction between Japan and its Western industrialized trading partners.

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Officials said the Government will take steps next

## 'Al Capone' jibe at Burton directors

By Peter Wainwright

Mrs Cynthia Israel, a Burton Group shareholder, yesterday attacked the directors of the £112m clothing chain when she told them: "You make Al Capone look like a petty shoplifter."

Here was the only voice of dissent at the annual general meeting in the City's baroque Drapers' Hall which lasted just eight minutes and was attended by around 200 shareholders.

Afterwards she said: "I was most disappointed that no-one else backed me up. I feel that the institutions don't care about shareholders and I think that shareholders should speak up."

Mrs Israel spoke against boardroom plans (blocked by pension funds and insurance companies) to help Mr Ralph Halpern, 43, chairman and chief executive, buy a £275,000 Hampstead mansion. She also hit out at share options for directors, and the £4,014 expense of twice sending out to shareholders notice of resolutions for the meeting which she wanted deducted from directors' pay. She asked whether there were any hidden perks.

Mrs Israel got no applause. This was reserved for a second shareholder who said: "Give the directors as much as they want just so long as they continue to produce the dividend expected at that level after the members."

Mr Halpern told the meeting that sales so far in the six months to the end of February were 14 per cent up. He added: "It is confidently expected that at the trading level for the first half of this financial year will exceed that achieved in the first half of last year."

### Satellite link

American Telephone & Telegraph intends to use its communications satellite for radio broadcasts across the United States from the end of the year.

## MARKET SUMMARY

### LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 688.9 up 11.2  
FT 100 63.80 up 0.28  
FT all share 325.73 up 5.78  
Bargains 20,199

Relief at Wall Street's resilience to last week's United States money supply figures overcame yesterday's gloom and gains in every sector the FT index closed up 11.2 at 688.9.

The only big exceptions to this were two substantial rights issues which coupled with disappointing half year profits knocked 15p off Davy Corporation to 154p on news of its £25m cash call.

Chryse Petroleum is looking to shareholders for £25m to finance an American acquisition and is not expected to have any trouble in raising the money, which was more than the market had expected.

ICL rose 4p to 45p on news that acceptances had been received for 95 per cent of its £32.2m rights issue launched last December.

Second line oil issues performed well as the sector returned to favour after a long period in the doldrums, with Carless Capel and Candoco putting on 6p apiece.

There was no great volume of trade in leaders but there were improvements with Ultramar up 15p to 445p, Lesmo rising 15p to 384p and Tricentral up 10p to 226p.

Stores reflected hopes of tax cuts in the budget and a slight increase in consumer spending over the last quarter with Debenhams at 76p, 6p better and GUS A up 18p to 508p among the best in two way trading.

Marka and Spencer closed at 144p, up 5p the 1981/2 high, but

trade was thin according to dealers.

Foods attracted speculative interest with old takeover prospect Unigate up 4p to 113p, while Hunkley and Palmer put on 4p to 114p on renewed talk that Allied Lyons would better the £72.6m bid made yesterday by Rowntree. United Biscuits added 3p to 129p in sympathy while other food shares were up 5p to 10p.

Further consideration of its figures put a further 6p on Rank Organisation to 195p after yesterday's 13p jump.

Messiah Ferguson Industrial Holdings more than doubled its profits in the nine months to November and the shares reflected this, closing up 4p to 84p.

Brokers Penny Eason noted in a review of the equity market that some properties still relied largely on variable rate debt financing and their share price could fall significantly as interest rates rise.

But leading property shares including Great Portland, M&P and Land Securities were all about 6p higher, in line with the market.

Banks gained 10p and insurances were 5p to 6p better. Ahead of tomorrow's results Union Discount was up 10p to 130p, but further consideration of yesterday's figures left Mercantile House down 13p to 445p.

After RTZ's victory in the battle to control Thos W. Ward attention switched to Tunnel, up 15p to 550p in anticipation of the terms to be offered by RTZ.

In line with the rest of the market gilts opened up 2½p and put on a further 2½p in after trading hours on news from the American bond markets. Long dated ended the day with gains of 2½ while shorts closed up 2½.

Equity turnover on January 26 was £142.98m (19,136 bar. gains).

Garrett David

### OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: The Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,863.40 down 42.86  
Hong Kong: Exchange closed.

### CURRENCIES

● The dollar met profit-taking as US interest rates eased slightly  
LONDON CLOSE  
Sterling \$1.8705 up 160 points  
Index 90.9 up 0.2  
DM 4.3250 up 0.2  
Fr. F 11.02  
Yen 427  
Dollar Index 110.1 down 0.4  
DM 2.9137 down 220 points  
Gold \$377.75 up \$5.75

### MONEY MARKETS

● Firm initially, rates eased slightly in late trading. The Bank provided £430m help on a forecast shortage of £400m, extending its 13½ rate to Band 3 bills.

Domestic rates:  
Base rates 14  
3-month interbank 14½-14 9/16  
Euro-Currency rates:  
3-month dollar 15-15½  
3-month DM 10, 5/16-10 3/16  
3-month Fr.F. 15½-15¾

Employment in production industries (November)  
Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing (November)  
Stoppages due to industrial disputes (December)

Sir Michael Edwards at Commons Industry and Trade Select Committee giving evidence on BL corporate plan.

## Gower urges securities reform

By Lorna Bourke

Radical proposals for a complete reorganisation of the investment and securities industry were put forward yesterday by Professor Laurence Gower, in a comprehensive preview of the entire framework of investor protection bodies.

His conclusion that the current legislative controls are inadequate and in some areas, most notably the Stock Exchange, and small investment advisers sector, virtually non-existent, will surprise few. But his recommendations for radical reform are likely to arouse strong feelings amongst members of the City investment community.

He is particularly critical of the Stock Exchange. "I see little prospect of effecting more needed reforms elsewhere unless the Exchange takes the lead, or of introducing comprehensive self-regulation unless the Stock Exchange collaborates. It seems obvious that there can be no comprehensive framework of regulation of securities if the all-important market for securities and a major segment of investment management and advice is divorced from it."

He acknowledges that his proposals for reform will be unworkable without the full collaboration of City institutions. If the exempted dealers in securities largely merchant banks and others remain excluded from the regulatory system, "A solution on these lines would not be feasible."

His proposals are based on the concept of self-regulation within a new statutory framework giving the Department of Trade overall control, but leaving the day-to-day policing of the industry to the self-regulatory bodies.

There would be at least four such agencies — the Stock Exchange, an extended Takeover Panel, the Unit Trust Association and a new and controversial body based on the existing Licensed Dealers Association, which would cover a wide range of operators in the investment field from merchant banks down to one-man investment advisers.

It is this fourth category which is likely to meet the strongest opposition since the incidence of failures is likely to be the highest amongst small investment advisers and the merchant banks would inevitably have to foot the bill.

We are going to be very chilly about that," was the immediate reaction from the Accepting Houses Committee, which sees the proposed self-regulatory body which its members would be obliged to join as only detrimental to the merchant banks. "We are not going to put our reputations on the line for the Norton Warburgs of this world."

The Stock Exchange gave an equally cool reception to the discussion paper. Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman, said: "It does not at first sight make much sense to alter quite radically, well-tried and sensible means of regulating securities markets in order to deal with these problems."

But there are some activities in securities markets which need tighter regulation, most notably the management of money by people outside the stock exchange who are not subject to adequate discipline and whose clients are not protected by a guarantee fund."

The Unit Trust Association was however, glowing in its praise of professor Gower's proposals.

The current Prevention of Fraud (Investment) Act should be replaced by a new Securities Act which would clearly define securities.

It should be an offence to conduct business in securities without registration with one of the relevant bodies recognized by the Department of Trade.

There should be four self-regulatory bodies (possibly more) including the Stock Exchange, the Takeover Panel, the Unit Trust Association and a new body incorporating licensed dealers in securities, merchant banks and investment advisers and counsellors.

The self-regulatory bodies should be co-ordinated by the Council for the Securities Industry.

Government supervision should be undertaken by the Department of Trade.

Life assurance policies should be treated as securities and the anomalous distinctions between the permitted methods of marketing them removed.

Financial and commodity futures should ideally be brought within a regulatory framework similar to that envisaged for securities. Commodity brokers registration council should be set up and given statutory recognition.

A Pension Act is urgently needed.

work giving the Department of Trade overall control, but leaving the day-to-day policing of the industry to the self-regulatory bodies.

## Bank granted full status

Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Sir Julian Hodge's Commercial Bank of Wales has finally been granted recognition as a fully-fledged bank. It is a personal triumph for Sir Julian, the controversial Welsh financier, who began his career as a railway clerk.

A year ago the Bank of England refused the Commercial Bank's application because it did not have the required "high reputation and standing in the financial community" and because it did not meet some of the quantitative criteria laid down in 1979 Banking Act. Instead, it was given the junior status of licensee deposit taker.

Commercial Bank decided to appeal against the decision but, last October, it agreed with the Bank to withdraw its appeal to allow new evidence to be considered.

Commercial Bank, which announces preliminary results next week, had to tal assets of £66m at end-1980 and made pre-tax profits of £1.1m in that year. Granting of full recognition may hasten its appearance on the stock market. Shares are now traded under Rule 163(2) and Sir Julian has said that he intended to seek a listing

## BL in talks to solve truck strike crisis

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Discussions begin today aimed at ending the widespread strikes threatening the future of British Leyland's long-making truck and other components from Leyland.

The dispute has compounded the problems which forced the BL board into a wide-ranging review of the commercial vehicle strategy last year and could lead to further cuts.

The commercial vehicle operations made a loss of £47m in the first half of last year and in its review of 1981, BL said the company's greatest problems and worst results lay in Leyland Group. It called for a major restructuring to give the massive costs reductions necessary for viability.

Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, is likely to be questioned at length about the crisis facing the trucks operation when he appears this morning before the Commons Select Committee on Industry and Trade. On Monday Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Industry, said he had no intention of intervening.

Despite a halving of British demand for trucks to 40,000 a year in the last two years, BL is continuing to manufacture a complete range

Workington, Leeds, Lowestoft and Bristol, employing a total of 4,000, are dependent upon supplies of engines and other components from Leyland.

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## Claim for half the sales in hot snacks

## A big bite by Golden Wonder

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Golden Wonder, the Imperial Group subsidiary, may be having a tougher time in the crisps sector of the snacks market but is celebrating over those instant hot snacks that come in plastic pots like overgrown yoghurt packs. In five years this market has grown to be worth £40m a year, with a 21 per cent increase in 1981 compared with, at most, 3 per cent in crisps (£120m a year). There Golden Wonder, with a 25 per cent share, is market leader by barely 1 per cent, threatened closely by Walker's and Smith's.

Golden Wonder claims half the instant hot snacks sector through its Pot Noodles label, with its recently introduced Pot Rice now taking another 15 per cent. But it now believes it can seize up to another 15 per cent share and expand the market itself by bringing in the familiar potato.

"Some people just don't go for noodles or rice so a potato base should actually expand the market which has been showing signs of easing back and so needs a shot in the arm," Mr Mike Knapp,

marketing director at Golden Wonder, said. Hence next week's launch in the Granada ITV area — with the equivalent of national spend of £1m — Pot Casserole. It comes in three flavours with a traditional image — beef, lamb and chicken.

Not that there is any meat in these products. Like almost all the instant hot snack producers, Golden Wonder uses other materials like soya. Mr Knapp claims that even if re-formed meat is used the savour has to come largely from flavourings.

Golden Wonder's nearest rival is the snackpot range produced by Batchelors, the instant food company which is part of Unilever. Snackpots' market share, 21 per cent in 1980, declined to 14 per cent last autumn, according to Independent Retail Audit (IRA).

But the six varieties of Quicklunch, produced by KP Foods (part of United Biscuits), now account for 12 per cent of the market, a rise of 1 per cent over 1980. It is Knoodles, made by Knorr (part of the Corn Products Company based in the United States), which has been worst hit.

Knoodles' 18 per cent share in 1980 has been halved, according to IRA. Knorr has been the only manufacturer to turn to potato as a base. Its Hot Pot sells in the Tyne Tees television area.

That has not stopped Mr Knapp believing that his casseroles, packed by the heaviest advertising in the sector and selling at the average price for such snacks, will make a bigger impact.

## McCORMACQUODALE

Specialist international printers

Results for the year to 30 September:—

	1981 £000	1980 £000
Sales	90,735	80,635
Profit before tax	5,008	4,895
Earnings per share	24.50p	26.06p
Dividends per share	8.00p	7.89p

Highlights from the Chairman's Statement:—

- \* Profits before tax increased for fifth successive year.
- \* Overseas profits before interest up 46%.
- \* U.K. profits before interest totalled nearly £4 million, only 7% down on previous year despite impact of the recession.
- \* By decisive action to rationalise and close unprofitable operations, the quality of our businesses



LLOYDS & SCOTTISH

# Decline of the credit independent

The formal announcement that Lloyds & Scottish, the finance house subsidiary of Bowmaker, has secured control of Bowmaker for £80m marks one of the final stages in the decline of the independent finance house sector.

There was a time when clearing banks snuffed at what they considered the downmarket operations of the finance houses but all that has changed in the 20 years or so.

The instalment credit business is now dominated by the clearing banks and when the Trustee Savings Banks won control of UKT last year, there were no other major companies left in the market until Marsh & McLennan put Bowmaker up for sale last October in the auction arranged by merchant bank S. G. Warburg.

Lloyds, although it has developed its leasing business strongly, was left behind by the other clearing banks in developing its own in-house instalment credit capability. Snatching control of Lloyds & Scottish last March with a sharp-footed stock market operation was one big step in rectifying this and Lloyds is keen to buy out the 30.3 per cent stake in L & S owned by Royal Bank of Scotland Group.

Now with L & S taking over Bowmaker, subject only to approval from the Office of Fair Trading, which seems to be a formality, Lloyds has an instalment credit business which ranks close to the other clearers.

L & S has nearly £1,000m of hire purchase and instalment credit receivables and Bowmaker will add a further £240m. Including leasing, the combined operation has outstandings of about £1,400m, which puts it on a par with Midland Bank's Forward Trust (on the basis of end-1980 figures) although behind Mercantile Credit, owned by Barclays and National Westminster's Lombard North Central.

In addition Bowmaker is largely corporate — about 80 per cent of its business — while L & S is about three-fifths corporate, and the rest consumer, so there will be some benefits from putting the two businesses together although there is bound to be some duplication of coverage in parts of the country.

With Bowmaker now disposed off, attention will turn to First National Finance Corporation where rumours of a rights issue, sell-off of the profitable consumer finance division or some other deal abound. FNFC's results are also overdue, having come out on January 8 last year.

## A dog's life

What is happening in Hongkong in this year of the Dog, which is now being celebrated? According to the astrologers, this sign is unlikely to be helpful "to those hoping solely for commercial benefit" (Sally White writes).

Vast amounts of Hongkong

money are wrapped up in property — the booming commercial centre of Hongkong has been the basis of most of the Chinese fortunes.

The government has been buying up land in the New Territories next to China, and issuing what are referred to as Letter Bs — which give the right to land being developed for new towns, or industry or other developments of a set ratio — currently 5 sq feet of agricultural land to one of development land, for time unlimited. These letters, which can be traded on, are on a variety of time bases.

These instruments are a form of option or warrant. They trade on a discount to property prices generally, but fluctuate even more widely and wildly.

At the moment the property market is not only hanging on to American interest rates (hoping for a fall), but also looking for a steer on what is going to happen to the future of the colony. In 1997 the lease China granted to Britain for the New Territories in Hongkong expires — most are 15 years so the financial community is regarding 1982 as crucial. This, of course, may be wrong, if the banks decide to switch to 12-year mortgages.



This is Hongkong's commercial centre which founded most local fortunes. Now it is the turn of the New Territories.

## DAVY CORPORATION £25m cash call to cut borrowings

Britain's engineering and construction giant, Davy Corporation, surprised the market yesterday with a £25m rights issue to steady its long-term finances.

The move is aimed to reduce Davy's year-end borrowings of £57m and gearing ratio of 63 per cent down to 27 per cent and so provide flexibility for expansion. Although Davy is not short of cash — it has £73m on

deposits — much of this is needed to cover the long gestation periods while tendering for contracts. Davy last raised money in 1975 with a £4.7m issue and has since funded business internally.

The call, coming with disappointing half-year figures, took the City by surprise but was not seen, as may have been expected, as a defensive strike against last year's abortive £143m bid from the Texan-based Enserch Corporation. Nevertheless the shares, which fell 17p to 155p, are still a good level above the 140p a share issue price. The terms are one new share for every four.

Shares in A. Monk, where Davy holds 8 per cent, however, gained 4p to 62p on bid hopes.

Davy, now among the top six engineering contractors in the world, fell short of market forecasts with pre-tax profits of £5.6m in the six months to September against £6m. The market had looked for between £7m and £8m so full year profits have been revised down by £2m to some £20m. Total sales increased £65m to £388m.

## BENJAMIN PRIEST

### More losses

Losses continue at Benjamin Priest & Son (Holdings), the West-Midlands based engineers, but there are signs of light at the end of the tunnel.

As forecast at the last annual meeting, the losses have been reduced at the pre-tax level to £360,000. This compares with total losses last year of £1.5m and a profit for the corresponding period of £40,000.

Much of the reduction, according to Mr Charles Wardle, chairman, has stemmed from last year's re-organisation resulting in the loss of 260 jobs from a workforce of 2,460. The improvement has continued into the second half, Mr Wardle adds, with a small profit reported from October to December.

However, he remains cautious about the possibility of a return to the black for the full year with the recent



Mr Charles Wardle, of Benjamin Priest & Son

spate of bad weather affecting orders.

As a result the board has been forced to cut the interim dividend which last year stood at 2.42p gross, and shareholders must wait until the full year before any decision is taken as to whether the final payment can be made.

Against all this, demand remains dull with sales falling from £22m to £19m and, as yet, there are no signs of an improvement with the recession still making itself felt.

## MACARTHYS

### Cheerless

The intense competition in the pharmaceutical industry shows little sign of abating and the downturn in profits announced yesterday at Macarthy's Pharmaceuticals, has come as no surprise to most observers.

Pre-tax profits for the six months to October 31 were down from £2.3m to £1.9m despite an increase in sales from £89.2m to £99.7m. The board has held the interim dividend at 2.857p gross.

Much of the profits shortfall has stemmed from the pharmaceutical distribution where in spite of an 11 per cent increase in sales, profits fell from £1.9m to £1.3m amid further intense competition.

Elsewhere, pharmaceutical wholesaling continues to mark time with margins against under pressure. The board expects little improvement in this sector during the remainder of the year. A small downturn is also reported in the veterinary side where profits slipped from £196,000 to £193,000. But there has been a balanced and improved performance in the surgical and pharmaceutical manufacturing sectors.

## LATEST RESULTS

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total	
Atlantic Assets (I)	(1.4)	0.230 (23)	0.070 (05)	—	—	(0.56)
S. C. Banks (I)	35.4 (32.09)	0.09 (08)	19.1 (14.6)	2.25 (2)	7/4	(6.25)
Davy Corp (I)	36.6 (32.3)	6.59 (6.06)	4.8 (4.8)	2 (2)	7/4	7.37 (7.7)
Ferguson Ind (I)	83 (81.4)	2.8 (2.4)	—	—	—	—
Macarthy's Pharm (I)	96 (708.4)	2.9 (2.1)	1 (1.2)	2 (2)	6/4	(7.0)
P. Priest (I)	18 (21.9)	0.38 (0.3)	0.10 (0.24)	—	—	(2.3)
Wm Somerville (I)	2.2 (1.7)	0.04 (0.04)	3.3 (3.4)	—	—	(1.1)

(Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Earnings in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.426. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a=Adjusted for prior issue, b=Loss, c=For nine months.

## COMMODITIES

COPPER was steadier. Afternoon. Higher. Cash 50.50-51.00. Three months 50.50-51.00. Six months 50.50-51.00. Nine months 50.50-51.00. Twelve months 50.50-51.00. Silver 15.50-15.60. Tin 11.50-11.60. Lead 10.50-10.60. Zinc 10.50-10.60. Nickel 10.50-10.60. Aluminium 10.50-10.60. Iron 10.50-10.60. Steel 10.50-10.60. Coal 10.50-10.60. Oil 10.50-10.60. Gas 10.50-10.60. Electricity 10.50-10.60. Water 10.50-10.60. Transport 10.50-10.60. Insurance 10.50-10.60. Banking 10.50-10.60. Finance 10.50-10.60. Real estate 10.50-10.60. Agriculture 10.50-10.60. Forestry 10.50-10.60. Fishing 10.50-10.60. Mining 10.50-10.60. Manufacturing 10.50-10.60. Retail 10.50-10.60. Wholesale 10.50-10.60. Services 10.50-10.60. Hospitality 10.50-10.60. Entertainment 10.50-10.60. Education 10.50-10.60. Health 10.50-10.60. Social 10.50-10.60. Cultural 10.50-10.60. Religious 10.50-10.60. Political 10.50-10.60. Legal 10.50-10.60. Military 10.50-10.60. Space 10.50-10.60. Aeronautics 10.50-10.60. Astronautics 10.50-10.60. 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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Sir Max and the Savoy

When the reticent millionaire hotelier Sir Max Joseph (below) made a rare public appearance yesterday he gave a revealing tip about his rival, Sir Charles Forte.



Sir Max and Lady Joseph yesterday.

Sir Max is chairman of the hotels and brewing group, Grand Metropolitan, but yesterday he was concentrating on the much smaller Norfolk Capital Hotels, of which he is chairman and stepson Peter Eyles is managing director.

Sir Max and Lady Eileen Joseph attended the opening of Norfolk Capital's Old Poodle Dog restaurant in Sloane Square.

Of Norfolk Capital, Sir Max told me: "I'm looking to sell some hotels, upgrade others and perhaps buy some more."

One he is not after, I gather, is the Savoy — but Sir Max tells me Sir Charles Forte, of Trust House Forte, would like another wrestle with Sir Hugh Wootton for control of the Savoy Group, probably this June.

"And I think he will win," says Sir Max of Sir Charles. "He deserves to."

Lady Joseph advised on the decor of the restaurant — which is aimed at Chelsea's lady shoppers. She has a restaurant of her own in Mayfair, the Snooty Fox, and she tells me she is annoyed with Whitbread chairman Charles Tidbury for planning to open a chain of pub-restaurants of the same name.

Our stories of the Great Storm are now just a memory, but how about this one from Canada. Two men have just hitchhiked almost 150 miles through the frozen Ontario countryside from Windsor, to a court in Woodstock, to face charges of attempted robbery. The case was adjourned because of bad weather, so they hitchhiked back again.

Mrs Cohen's two-year hitch

Civil servant Janet Cohen (below) is strengthening her already considerable links with the private sector by taking up a two-year stint as an assistant director in the



corporate finance department of merchant bankers Chartered Bank. Mrs Cohen, a solicitor, has been seconded to the bank from the Department of Industry, where she is an assistant secretary. At the DoI she has recently been involved in the restructuring of the private sector and in the new £22m assistance to steel castings firms.

She would like to get up on takeovers and mergers at C.J. Her closest links with the private sector is with her husband Jim, a director of GEC Transportation.

Ross Davies

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Mr Timothy W. N. Guinness has been appointed executive director responsible for all aspects of the Guinness Mahon banking group's investment management activities. He was previously a director in the corporate finance division. He succeeds Sir David Hill-Wood who has now assumed a wider business development role within Guinness Mahon.

Sir Guy Fison has succeeded Mr David Rutherford as chairman of the Wine Development Board, and Mr Philip Wetz is the new deputy chairman in place of Mr Gilbert Aikens.

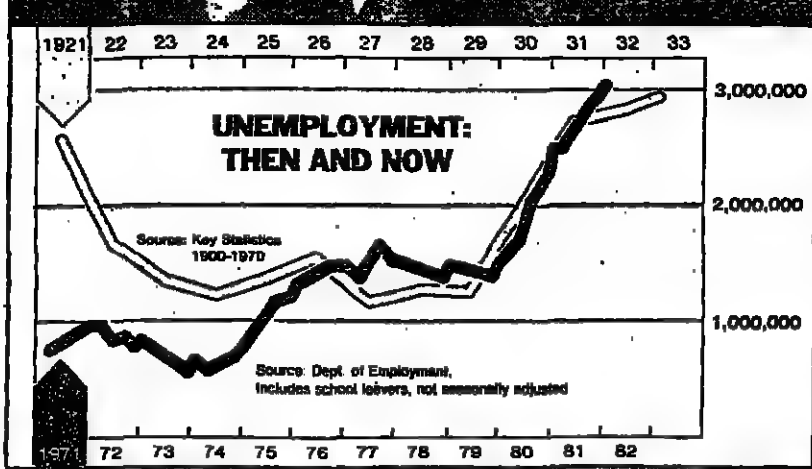
Lord Valzey has been appointed a non-executive director of London & Scottish Marine Oil.

Mr E. Wynn Owen has been re-elected chairman of The Life Offices' Association. Mr M.H. Field has been re-elected deputy chairman.

Mr Bruce T. Smith has been appointed as a non-executive director of Royal Trust Company of Canada. Mr R.H.M. Lindsey has been appointed alternate director for Mr P.T. Guntun on the board of Harrison Malaysian Estates.

Melvyn Westlake examines some disturbing parallels with "the Thirties"

Unemployment: 3 million and rising with no end in sight



face of declining world trade, an over-valued currency and competition from rival industrial nations. Although all regions were affected in the trough of the depression, by the middle 1930s unemployment had reverted to the pattern of the previous decade. The disparity between the unemployment rates of the more prosperous southern half of the country and the regions of the west and north was very marked. The percentage of the labour force without work in the worst hit regions of Wales, Scotland, Northern England and North-east Ireland was two to four times greater than in London and the South East in the middle 1930s.

In Jarrold, Maryport, Merthyr and Motherwell, the level of unemployment was, respectively, 68, 57, 62 and 37 per cent. By contrast, in Coventry, Oxford, Luton and St Albans, unemployment ranged between 4 and 8 per cent (figures quoted by Stevenson and Cook in their publication *The Shump*).

The regional pattern of unemployment today bears some resemblance to that earlier period. Again, it is Wales, Scotland and the North that are amongst the regions worst hit. But the gap between them and the South East is a lot smaller. That most affluent part of the country has seen unemployment rise from one in 50 in the mid-1970s to one in 12. Apart from Northern Ireland, no region has more than one-in-seven of its workers idle, although the rate is much higher in some inner cities.

The relative decline of the once-prosperous West Midlands is the most striking consequence of today's recession. Once the home of many of the new industries that

flowered in the boom years, the region is experiencing some of the highest unemployment in the country as its manufacturing industry contracts and jobs are wiped out.

Employment in manufacturing has fallen by nearly a fifth in the country as a whole during the last three years. The biggest decline has been in mechanical engineering, metal manufacture and textiles. Outside of manufacturing, the construction industry has taken the brunt of the recession.

The relative share of manufacturing employment has been declining steadily since the 1950s. One big change, however, is that now there is no room in the service industries or on the Government payroll for those who lose their jobs in manufacturing.

In the 1970s, employment in the government sector rose by about 900,000. Employment in the service industries also showed substantial growth. In 1980 and 1981, jobs in these sectors were also disappearing.

At the same time that employment has been contracting, the labour force has been growing, as children born during the baby boom of the 1960s reach working age. A similar situation occurred in the 1930s. An expanding workforce was a major reason that unemployment remained high for so long during that earlier period.

The economic arguments, too, have not changed much during the last half century. One body of economists believe that today's recession is the result of an insufficient demand for the goods that the economy is capable of producing. Because of worries about the balance of payments or

inflation, British governments have been unable or unwilling to boost demand to a level which would ensure that most people could get a job. The problem has been made much more acute by the rise in the price of oil. This has reduced growth throughout much of the world.

As Britain has oil of its own, it is not the direct effects of the price increase that have hurt us so much as the indirect effects, through the fall in income growth elsewhere.

Governments in the West have generally been more concerned about the inflationary consequences of the oil price rise than about the impact on economic activity. They have responded by adopting tough monetary and budgetary policies that have depressed output still further. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, these policies have a much more depressing effect than the 1979-80 oil price rise.

This is happening at a time when the labour force is rising in most industrial countries. According to one estimate, the recorded labour force of this country rose by three million between 1973 and 1981. A further three million people are expected to be looking for jobs by 1985.

The idea that the recession is largely the result of insufficient demand is rejected by some economists who attribute the causes to problems on the supply side of the economy. It is said that monopoly wage bargaining has pushed wages too high and priced workers out of jobs. It is also argued that the various benefits paid to the unemployed are too generous and consequently remove the incentive to look for work.

Government intervention and the expanding public sector are also said to have damaged private enterprise, impaired efficient markets and reduced underlying growth potential.

These arguments are essentially the same as those put forward in the 1930s but in a modern guise. Then, as now, Britain had suffered greatly from an over-valued exchange rate. The Treasury held firm, during the inter-war period, to the contention that all unemployment was caused by excessively high wage rates. Confronted by calls from Keynes and others for more Government spending, Treasury mandarins insisted that such spending was in itself destructive of underlying economic resources.

But it is not just the misery of mass unemployment in the inter-war years that still haunts us today. There is another legacy — that of industrial conflict, restrictive trade union practices and demarcation disputes. Many of the industrial practices so deplored today, originated half a century ago in attempts by workers to share the available work. Much of the bitterness that now surrounds labour relations derives from the folk memories of past battles when unemployment was high and wages were forced down. The divisive "them" and "us" attitudes prevalent in industry became deeply embedded in the 1930s — the "Devil's Decade".

The great danger is that a return to mass unemployment could bequeath a similar legacy for the next 50 years.

Business Editor

Gower presents his case

Professor Laurence Gower's comprehensive discussion paper on investor protection or more accurately, the lack of investor protection — will create quite a few ripples in City ponds.

Few would disagree with the basic concepts of his preferred solution: self-regulation within a statutory framework. But several City institutions, namely the merchant banks and the Stock Exchange, are likely to have something to say about the role envisaged for them by Professor Gower. Some will, no doubt, dispute that any changes are necessary.

Professor Gower proposes that a new Securities Act should replace the outdated Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act, which would clearly define what is, and what is not a security. It would then become an offence to carry on business in securities unless registered with one of the relevant self-regulatory bodies recognised by the Department of Trade.

These self-regulatory agencies would be either of the registration council type or with insurance brokers or a professional association. The distinction between licensed and exempt dealers in securities would be abolished.

Gower suggests that a minimum of four recognised agencies would be required. These would be the Stock Exchange, an enlarged Panel on Takeovers, the Unit Trust Association and a fourth and likely to be the most contentious of his proposals — an amalgam of merchant banks, licensed dealers and investment advisers and managers.

It is acknowledged that without the cooperation of the merchant banks and the existing licensed dealers, this fourth, and most important category, will have no credibility.

However, the merchant banks likely to have some strong views on the desirability of being lumped in the same category as the one-man investment consultancy in Croydon High Street, and it is this sector of the investment industry which is likely to have the highest incidence of failures.

Professor Gower has few illusions about how his discussion paper will be received. "I will no doubt, hear much from those who market securities and from institutional investors." And he has dispensed penetrating criticisms of current regulatory practices — or lack of them — of several City institutions, not least of all the Stock Exchange.

His discussion paper is bound to stir up considerable reaction among the investment community. Whether he eventually succeeds in provoking both the City and the Government into producing much-needed protection for small investors, is another matter. But, as Gower himself observes, "this is a matter of some public importance."

it is going to be interesting to see how the institutions play their hands come application time tomorrow morning. The previous issue, in July, was a right old affair, with the Bank getting the whole issue away in double quick time once it had decided to bow to tender tactics that effectively established a going yield of close on 3 per cent. From the institutions' viewpoint, that gave them a stock that has subsequently performed reasonably well, in part compensating for the underperformance of the Mark I.

This time round, the Bank has tried to beef up the attractions of the stock. The size of the issue is cut from £1,000m to £750m, the coupon goes up to 2½ per cent, and the partly paid element allows fund managers to book their holdings now, while using the call money to play the conventional stocks until a week after the Budget. If, that is, they feel the conventional market to be worth playing.

Whether this star-billing will prove enough to draw the shoppers remains to be seen. This time round, fund managers will probably assume that the Bank will not prove such a pushover and that there are limits to the kind of bargain they can drive. Indeed, some holders of the existing stocks might prefer the authorities to draw a firm line and make it clear that they are not prepared to see the yield driven higher on each and every new issue — a nauseum. But I somehow doubt that any of these thoughts will stop fund managers from trying it on.

Imps

First step

The head office reorganisation at Imperial Group is merely the tip of major changes underway at a company which accounts for 4.5 per cent of all consumer spending in the United Kingdom. Mr Geoffrey Kent, the new chairman has been searching for a corporate strategy aimed at transforming Imps from an ailing giant trapped within the tobacco empire, into a leaner, fitter outfit.

The hope is that the radical restructuring will be relatively painless. But in the tobacco division, whose market share has dropped from 60 per cent to around 50 per cent over the past five or six years, there may have to be factory closures — particularly with national cigarette sales down by 15 per cent since last spring.

Second, the future of the J.B. Eastwood poultry subsidiary, bought for a price of £40m three years ago, is in doubt. Imps watchers believe it is up for sale. Third, there is a problem of how to make the Howard Johnson acquisition pay for itself. Losses totalling £10m in the six months to April 1981 and fast food chains in the United States have seen their heyday.

The investment community has long been aware of Imps' root problems, with its traditional products undergoing secular decline, hastened by recession, and its diversification policy proving less than successful. But the shares have moved from 60p in November to 77p in the belief that first, there will be drastic surgery, and second, that the company's due on February 11, could, with the help of accounting niceties, turn out at perhaps £100m pretax — against £124m previously — rather than the £285m expected last autumn.

Longer-term, with Chancellor likely to hit smokers and drinkers to new saturation points, it must be a fair bet that Imps' profile will look very different by the middle of the decade.

Indexed stock Round three

The authorities' decision to announce a new index-linked government stock last Friday took the City by surprise. What were the authorities up to? Were they simply reinforcing the message that they were determined to lead interest rates lower, making further conventional funding unnecessarily dear at the present level of yields? Or were they offering a bolt-hole to those who fear that any attempt to lead short-term rates down too fast will simply worsen inflationary expectations later this year? Possibly a bit of both, and

Timetable for life at the top

"Desk? Why do I need a desk?" asks Sir John Clark, the chairman of Plessey, from a deep, comfortable armchair in his Millbank office. From the right-hand pocket of his jacket he produces a daily scribbling card, and from the left a bespoke pocket book.

The paperwork should be entirely flexible. A slave to detail, what papers there are stay on my secretary's desk until they are ready for filing. And we use a signing book. So what do I want a desk for?"

On the left of the hexagonal Lutyens desk in the office of BP chairman Peter Walters is a pile of papers and folders. Memos and letters are scattered over the blotter. Some of the reading matter in that pile, admits Walters, will go unused. There simply won't be time.

The idea of a personal assistant is firmly rejected. "Putting an intermediary between a chairman and his executives can leave you open to dangerous misinterpretation," says Walters.

Christopher Hogg, chairman of Courtaulds, agrees: "Unless you can make a PA's function absolutely clear, you create more work, not less."

Of the three industry chiefs, Hogg who is 45, is the first to arrive at the office. By the time Peter Walters has settled down to his chauffeur's Daily Mail for the short ride from home to Britannic House, Hogg has already parked his bicycle, shed his weather-proofs, scanned *The Financial Times* and spent half an hour reflecting on the previous day's business. "Cycling," says Hogg, "is one way of keeping in touch with the outside world: one can too easily become cosseted by chauffeurs and secretaries."

Sir John Clark, who is up at 6.30am organising the family takes his exercise on foot — but cheats a little. His chauffeur drops him at the day's chosen starting point and picks him up further on.

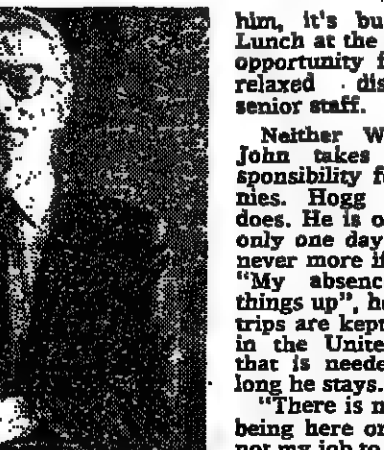
Walters begins his Monday mornings in company with his six managing directors.



Hogg: in by bike Clark: needs no desk Walters: reads chauffeur's newspaper.



Hogg: in by bike Clark: needs no desk Walters: reads chauffeur's newspaper.



Hogg: in by bike Clark: needs no desk Walters: reads chauffeur's newspaper.

The meeting is divided into three parts: the first for formal presentations; the second for a round-table report on the previous week; the third for social, personal and personal matters. The meeting works to a strict time limit, although the second period is given greater elasticity.

Plessey's key meetings tend to be more loosely structured and to start in the afternoon rather than the morning, lasting until the early evening if necessary. "I hate agenda items," says Sir John, "and it is a mistake to take big decisions under pressure of time."

It was also a mistake to become a "professional" director with a seat on boards here, there and everywhere. "You can only do that at the expense of your own business," Sir John holds just one directorship — with the Banque Nationale de Paris. He sits on the Defence Industries Council and is vice-president of the Engineering Employers' Federation.

Christopher Hogg is even more single-minded: his time belongs exclusively to Courtaulds. He understands the argument that outside experience can be useful, but maintains that there are barely enough hours in the day to run his own show let alone get involved in other people's.

Like Sir John, Walters has just one external board commitment as a non-executive director of NatWest Bank. But he is on the General Council of British Shipping; is vice-president of the Institute of Manpower Studies, and a member of the National Institute for Economic and Social Research.

AT WORK: CHAIRMAN'S DAY

By Robin Laurence

Sir John and Hogg are reluctant to accept speaking engagements — Sir John likes to be in bed soon after *NatWest* at Ten, and Hogg makes an exception if the subject is one which he happens to want to focus his mind on. Walters is generous with his evenings but there are certain criteria to be met before he accepts. "And I draw the line at attending more than three functions in a row."

Walters also draws a line at the number of people to have direct access to his office. They number about 20 and include main board directors, and the managers of public affairs and government relations. In contrast, Christopher Hogg runs an open

house. But since it is he who tends to wander into other people's offices — picking up, he says, a lot of useful things on the way — access is not an issue.

At Plessey, it is free access for all — in principle. In practice, the chief executive officer (CEO) — moved from Ilford to Millbank to be closer to customers as well as the City and Fleet Street — has a relatively small complement anyway. Even so Sir John, too, claims to have valuable corridor conversations and requires whoever he meets to deposit a brief summary of their conversation with his secretary for filing.

Lunch is very much part of the working day. Going out to lunch, says Sir John, is too time-consuming; having people in to lunch is a business necessity — and not infrequently a pleasure, even though being on a permanent diet is purgatory. His guests are mostly customers, and he expects to entertain two or three times a week. Walters entertains with about the same frequency but tends to have a slightly broader cross-section of guests. On days when there are no visitors he has lunch on a tray at his desk.

Christopher Hogg, however, is not at all in favour of the great English lunch: for

him, it's business dinners. Lunch at the office offers an opportunity for general and relaxed discussion with senior staff.

Neither Walters nor Sir John makes a day-to-day reputation for their companies. Hogg very definitely does. He is out of the office only one day in the week — never more if he can help it. "My absence would hold things up," he says. Overseas trips are kept short. If a day in the United States is all that is needed, that is how long he stays.

"There is no substitute for being here on the spot. It is not my job to visit the troops."

Peter Walters, at 50 BP's youngest ever chairman, has been in charge for less than four months and is still making up his mind about visiting the troops. He thinks it is probably not his job to go out of his way to be "seen" or to become anything of a public figure.

Sir John is out and about as much as time allows. "Too many industrialists get bogged down with personnel matters or accounting. What they tend to forget is that the business of making profit is product." So he calls regularly to the company's research laboratories and visits the main manufacturing sites at least twice a year.

Some of the time he has lost by travelling around the country has been won back through restructuring the company's management system. "Since the CEO has been in existence, I have had more time to think," said Sir John.

That thought tends to come to fruition rather early in the morning which, he says, is a damn nuisance. "I had two ideas two nights running at 4.17 am."

Sir John, who will be 56 on St Valentine's Day, appears to be collecting his sleepy thoughts earlier as he gets older. The last recorded nocturnal inspiration — concerning the weakness of the five-year plan occurred at five minutes past five.

NatWest Investment Accounts

NatWest announces that with effect from Friday, January 29th, 1982, the rate applied to

SIX MONTH NOTICE INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS will be 14% per annum and THREE MONTH NOTICE INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS will be 13½% per annum.

National Westminster Bank Limited







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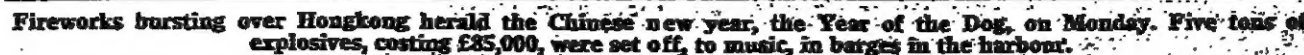




From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, Jan 26

All that has now changed  
and the Sejm, though it still

of 130 intellectuals, went to Parliament earlier this month.



general secretary, said, how

Neither Aslef nor the BR.

BRs decision to stop Sunday working for most staff does not

Mr. Ray Buckton, Asst.

implicated "every driver and guard" throughout BS.

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[illegible]

### Around Britain

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Blackburn	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Birmingham	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Cardiff	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Edinburgh	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Exeter	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Gloucester	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Leeds	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
London	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Manchester	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Newcastle	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Nottingham	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Sheffield	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Southampton	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Stoke	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Swansea	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Torquay	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Wolverhampton	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Wrexham	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25

### Abroad

MEMBERS OF CLUBS IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES MAY BE INVITED TO MEET AT THE CLUBS OF THEIR RESIDENCE.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
Amsterdam	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Birmingham	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Cardiff	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Edinburgh	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Exeter	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Gloucester	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Leeds	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
London	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Manchester	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Newcastle	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Nottingham	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Sheffield	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Southampton	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Stoke	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Swansea	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Torquay	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Wolverhampton	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25
Wrexham	2.15	2.30	2.45	2.55	3.05	3.15	3.25

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